



HOUSING OPTIONS PROJECT: READ OUR REPORT

The aim of the research was to examine the housing options information for older people provided by each of the local authorities in Greater Manchester, with particular focus on older co-researchers' experiences.

The project was led by Greater Manchester Older People's Network (GMOPN) in partnership with Care & Repair England and with support from the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University. Eight members of GMOPN's Housing and Neighbourhoods working group took part in the project as co-researchers. The project received funding from British Society of Gerontology's The Averil Osborne Award.

The research focused on three areas:

- The process of getting through to a person who can provide housing options information and advice in the local authority, and focus on the use of websites to provide information
- The type and quality of information and advice provided over the telephone
- How the older co-researchers described the quality of the interaction they had over the phone particular focus on older co-researchers' experiences

The findings show there is a gap between the rhetoric and the front-line experience of older people. Greater Manchester has an opportunity to lead the way on integrated provision of information and advice for people wishing to make well informed housing, care and financial decisions in later life. There is also a need to raise awareness among older people about the housing options and support that is available to them locally, and what information and advice should be provided for them.

Co-researchers from GMOPN's Housing & Neighbourhoods Working Group, who were involved in the Housing Options project, will be presenting about the project at the British Society of Gerontology conference in July.

To download the full report, Click [here](#)

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



Covid-19 infections in the UK are at the lowest levels seen since mid-December, the latest weekly Office for National Statistics figures suggest.

Estimated infections have returned to levels last seen before the first Omicron variant became widespread. It comes alongside a fall in the number of hospital patients with coronavirus, with the lowest number of people in hospital with Covid since the end of December 2021.

Estimated infections fell in all nations in the week ending 13th May, according to the infection survey by the Office for National Statistics.

Total infections were down by 14% in the previous week, with an estimated one in every 50 people infected. This is about 2% of the population.

At the start of April England scrapped free coronavirus tests for the majority of people, and the rules around when most can access free tests have tightened in Scotland and Wales.

COST OF LIVING SURVEY

Age UK's 'It Doesn't Add Up' campaign

Age UK is campaigning for the government to provide the necessary support older people need to avoid struggling. They're looking to hear from older people worried about the rising cost of living and making sacrifices in order to pay their bills. With this insight, they can inform the government how rising costs are affecting older people and what sort of support will help.



'It Doesn't Add Up' is Age UK's follow up to the Cost of Cold campaign, continuing the call for immediate and sufficient support for older people as the cost of living rises to unprecedented levels. To support the campaign, they have created a survey to hear the experiences of older people who are worried about the rising cost of living. Complete the survey [here](#).

AGE-POSITIVE IMAGES SHORTLISTED FOR AN AWARD

The Centre for Ageing Better's age-positive image library is shortlisted for the Charity Awards

A free collection of photographs that depict older people in a more diverse and realistic way has been named on the shortlist for a Charity Award, one of the longest-running and most prestigious awards scheme in the charity sector. The GMOPN has frequently used some of these fantastic images, more recently in our latest report: Housing Options Information for Older People in Greater Manchester. See some examples below. To view the full image library, click [here](#).



SCAM AWARENESS PROJECT

Age UK is running a scam awareness project which offers advice and support about scams to older people. The project offers two different services for those over 50, who live in the Manchester City Council area and may be considered more at risk of being scammed. The first project is regular scam awareness talks in the Manchester area to groups of older people, providing information on how to spot a scam. The second service offer is home visits to those who would like a more in-depth, one to one discussion about scams, the content of which can be tailored to the needs of the individual.

For more information visit this [website](#) or contact Sharon Boswell:
sharon.boswell@ageukmanchester.org.uk



DEBDALE WALKERS

Join the Debdale Walkers! They walk locally around Gorton between three and five miles on Thursday mornings at 10am. Everyone is welcome to join them for fun, laughs and most importantly a walk. They end each of their walks with a free coffee provided by McDonalds on Hyde Road. This group is made up of men and women, mainly aged 60+. Olwyn Taylor is the volunteer who runs this group. To find out more, contact Olwyn via email: olwyntaylor@outlook.com or telephone: 07741 209 016.



News and Participation Opportunities

SONDER RADIO MUSIC COURSE

Sonder Radio is launching a new workshop titled 'Let's Get Musical' which will focus on helping participants to learn creative digital and music-making skills. Participants will also gain skills for employment, develop confidence and make new friends.

The course is completely free to attend. No experience is needed in order to join and any equipment required can be supplied. This is a three week course starting on 6th June, 10:30-15:30 Monday - Friday. For more information, contact Sonder Radio on 07933 773 118 or email hello@sonderradio.com.





Let's Get Musical

Sonder








- For Manchester residents 50+
- Gain new creative digital skills
- Create your own live radio show
- Build employment skills
- Develop confidence & make new friends

3 Week Online Music Course

Begins on 6th June
10:30- 15.30 Everday
from Monday- Friday

Contact Us:
07933 773118
hello@sonderradio.com

FUNDED BY



GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY



European Union
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MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL



News and Participation Opportunities

ONLINE EVENT

Ageing Artfully Going Global – Creative Ageing Development Agency

- Thursday 9th June 11:00-15:40

Ageing Artfully Going Global is the second international online conference on creative ageing following last year's 'To Infinity and Beyond'. The coronavirus pandemic forced cultural organisations around the world to change how they engaged with older audiences. What have we learnt from the past two years and what new approaches do we want to take forward? As we begin to emerge from restrictions, what is the future of creative ageing? This online conference will showcase inspiring practice from around the world. To book onto the event, click [here](#).

SURVEY - RE-ENGAGE

Re-engage survey on diversifying activities

Re-engage is a charity helping to reduce social isolation in older people aged over 75. Re-engage is currently exploring the opportunity to diversify the activities they offer in London, Liverpool and Manchester, with a particular focus on physical activities such as Tai Chi and gentle exercise. They want to understand the need for different services for those aged 75+ in Liverpool, London, and Manchester, and would like to hear from older people living in those areas about their needs and interests.

Visit this [website](#) to find out more and to take part in the survey.



News and Participation Opportunities

CAREER COACHING FOR OVER 50S

Stay Nimble: Free career coaching for over 50s

GMCA has recently partnered with Stay Nimble, an award-winning career coaching and learning social enterprise, to deliver free one-to-one online career coaching to Greater Manchester residents aged 50+ who are currently in receipt of any out of work or in-work benefit. All the Stay Nimble Career Coaches are registered with the Career Development Institute and are certified Mental Health First Aiders. They can also signpost participants, if needed, to any social and welfare-to-work support services.

For more information and full eligibility criteria visit the [Stay Nimble website](https://www.staynimble.co.uk/manchester-coaching).



Friendly career support for free

Get easy access to your own dedicated career coach to help you with all your work-related challenges.

Are you...?

Aged 50+

In receipt of benefits (one or more of: UC, JSA, ESA, Housing Benefit, CTC, WTC or PIP)

Earning less than £25k p.a. (or below £14 per hour).

Visit events.staynimble.co.uk/manchester-coaching to register for your fully-funded access to a qualified coach.

We have joined up with Stay Nimble, experts in online career coaching, to offer Greater Manchester over 50s the opportunity to get support in any aspect of their work lives.

With dedicated coaching time and an easy to use website, you will have help to understand your strengths and skills, build confidence and be inspired to explore future career goals.

- ★ 6 hours of coaching with a dedicated, qualified career coach
- ★ Free lifetime access
- ★ Online assessment tools
- ★ Career and job searching