

Ageing in Place Action Plan

Gorton and Abbey Hey, Manchester

together
we are

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**

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Oldham
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Tameside
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#AgeingInPlaceGM

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COMBINED AUTHORITY

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About the GM Ageing in Place Pathfinder

Ageing in Place Pathfinder, 2022 - 2025

The Ageing in Place Pathfinder (AIPP) was a collaboration led by GMCA, Manchester Metropolitan University and nine lead organisations working with Greater Manchester residents and partners.

AIPP tested an innovative place-based model of developing community-led support in 10 Greater Manchester neighbourhoods where older people are more at risk of social isolation, health and financial inequalities.

The learning from Ageing in Place helps us understand how collectively we can foster meaningful social connection and improve the quality of later life.

Evaluation findings demonstrate that partnerships developed between older residents and local organisations at a meaningful local scale can create sustainable solutions that address barriers to health and wellbeing experienced by older people.

Involvement in creating these improvements as part of a community of place have significant potential for supporting health improvements, especially in areas experiencing health inequality.

By listening to older people, understanding what matters and building on local strengths across the Ageing in Place Pathfinder neighbourhoods AIPP has:

- Reached over 3,850 people aged 50 and over.
- Started 140 local projects and activities.
- Involved 86 residents and 89 organisations in partnership boards.
- Trained 19 residents in community reporting.
- Set out our ambition to grow this approach with our Live Well in Later Life Blueprint, part of GM Live Well.

[Watch this film](#) from the final Ageing in Place Pathfinder celebration event celebrates the many achievements of the Pathfinder.

Find out more about the work of the Ageing in Place Pathfinder here: [The Ageing in Place Pathfinder - Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)

Ageing in Place Pathfinder: Key Findings

Professor Stefan White at Manchester Metropolitan University is leading our learning and evaluation process. The evidence for Ageing in Place demonstrates that place-based community programmes can improve well-being.

- **Engaged people:** direct involvement in improvements to a place supports improved mental and physical health.
- **Place matters:** by understanding how people identify with their neighbourhoods (i.e., their sense of belonging, attachment), we can better identify and address health inequalities that vary by location.
- **Age-inclusive policy:** place-based social and physical improvements support well-being for all.

"I have volunteered for over 50 years, working with many programmes I no longer remember... but the Ageing in Place Pathfinder is the first community programme that has actually listened to me."

Mary, Brinnington in Stockport

Findings from the Ageing in Place Pathfinder have informed our Greater Manchester Live Well in Later Life Blueprint. This presents a shared approach for everyone in Greater Manchester to deliver everyday support for older people as part of GM Live Well.

Our policy recommendations identify three key objectives:

- **Creating an age-inclusive culture:** older people's voices are routinely heard, and their experiences inform policy and practice across Greater Manchester.
- **A movement for cross-sector collaboration:** people, organisations and knowledge are connected, and we are continuing to learn together how to create change.
- **Place focused action:** embedding age-friendly practice in all of our neighbourhoods, working at scales that are meaningful and building relationships and partnerships with residents.

Our Place

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Ageing in Place: what matters in Gorton & Abbey Hey

Residents would like to see:

- A **clean and safe** neighbourhood with accessible environment and transport
- A **welcoming and inclusive space** for older people to access information and activities and for socialisation
- **Reducing gaps** - digital, intergenerational, neighbourhood relationship between new residents and longstanding residents

Residents value the most:

- Gardening and nature, green spaces
- History and memory
- Good neighbours and nice people or staff

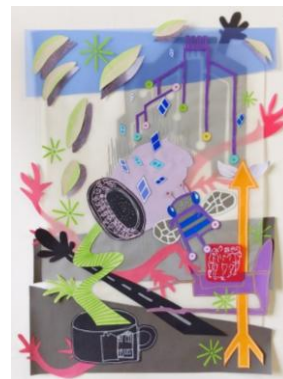
The most significant improvements residents would like to see:

ACCESS to community, garden and green spaces, better public transport, better healthcare services, information and advice, variety of activities, local amenities, comfortable and secured home, outside spaces independently.

Gorton Mill House is considered as a good investment to the area. The **café** is a brilliant space for social eating and gathering location.

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Gorton Central Community Centre is an important place to older people in the area - making friendship, getting to know what's happening in the community, taking part in activities, doing volunteering, connecting with the community. Watch a local resident Lynne's filming video [The Importance of Place in Abbey Hey, Gorton](#).



Artwork "Keep Moving Forwards" was co-created by Abbey Hey residents and the artist Sam Owen Hull. It shows what it's like to live in Abbey Hey, and how local residents over 50s feel it could be better. It is displayed at Gorton Mill café.



A tree planting by Lynne's family at Gorton Central community garden following Lynne's death in 2025

"The community centre was a huge part of Lynne's life and made a huge impact."

Lynne's family in Abbey Hey and Gorton



Ageing in Place: what matters in Gorton
and Abbey Hey

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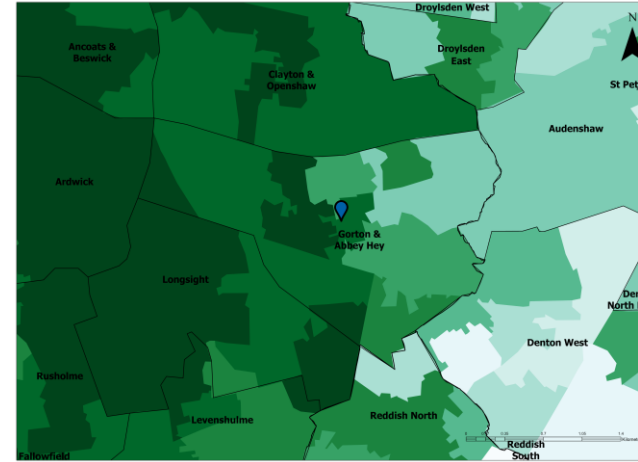
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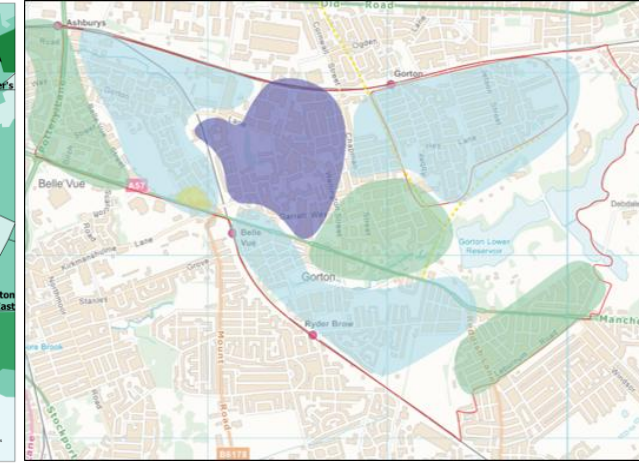
About the partnership and neighbourhood

- Lead Partner – Southway Housing Trust
- Gorton is an area in Manchester City Council to the south-east of the city centre and Abbey Hey is a residential neighbourhood benefitting from green and blue spaces, notably Debdale Park and two local cycleways.
- Gorton district centre provides Gorton Market, library and job centre, and Manchester Monastery is a local social and cultural asset. Gorton Mill House (Extra Care scheme) with cafe and Gorton Central provide key community spaces.
- 22,487 people live in the neighbourhood (Census 2021). Of this 2,274 are aged 65 and over (10%) and the population aged over 50 is 5,988 (27%).
- A higher proportion of older residents live in socially rented accommodation than the national average. Sizeable African (16% over 18s) and Pakistani populations (8% over 18s) live in the neighbourhood.
- A majority of older households experience considerable income, employment, and health inequalities.
- About 50% of the households in the pathfinder neighbourhood are within the most deprived 10% (nationally) of the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI 2019), with Abbey Hey area within the most deprived 20% of the same index.
- 71% of residents engaged in the Pathfinder who completed the community audit self-reported their health status as poor.

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Source: Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) 2019, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
([Open Government Licence \(nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk)), OS Open Data 2022, Open Geography Portal by ONS 2021



-  Around 26% of households in this area are residents over 65
-  Around 16% of households in this area are residents over 65
-  Around 6% of households in this area are residents over 65
-  Moorside boundary

“In Gorton, where Abbey Hey is sited, a significant number of older residents live on low incomes, have a limiting illness or disability, have lower life expectancy than the Manchester average and are isolated due to lack of local amenities and transport. Working in co-production with older people and local partners, we will develop Abbey Hey as a ‘Naturally Occurring Retirement Community’, with the new housing Extra Care scheme, Gorton Mill House as its community or social hub.”

Understanding local voice and lived experience

Pathfinder Partnership Priorities

1. Improve spaces and environments to be more age-friendly, accessible and inclusive for activities, socialisation and healthy ageing.
2. Create peer support network for older people to foster social connections and reduce loneliness.
3. Enhance capability and empowerment by building trust and partnerships among residents and stakeholders as well as producing useful resources and sustainability.

Local Assets

- Gorton Mill House with café
- Gorton Central Community Centre with garden
- Gorton Hub (Library, job centre, GP)
- Gorton Market
- Manchester Monastery
- Debdale Park and Reservoir
- Vine Street Park, other local parks, allotments
- Two local cycleways
- Gorton Train Station



Gorton Central Community Centre

Key issues highlighted by older people:

- **Social connection:** spaces needed for gathering, social eating, access to community information and a wider range of activities, particularly for men, intergenerational and day trips.
- **Outdoor spaces:** Poorly maintained or inaccessible facilities (e.g. lack of benches, uneven pavement, hidden walking path) leave green / outdoor spaces underused. Combined with problems with fly tipping and anti-social behaviour, this contributes to feeling unsafe and ignored and a lack of community belonging.
- **Digital exclusion:** Contributes to feelings of disconnection and inadequacy. Practical struggles include contacting GPs, online banking and using the transport app.
- **Getting out and about:** Strong discontent on bus services from unreliability, re-routing, less frequent timetable, reduced bus service, and absence of shelter and seating at bus stops.



Yellow Brick Road (Cycleway)



Debdale Park



Gorton Mill House with Cafe

Our Partnership

Our Partnership: formation, strengths, and learning

A Partnership Board has been in place since October 2022 with both residents and stakeholders covering all 8 domains.

Stakeholders from a wide range of sectors included:

- **VCFSE sector and older people groups:** Healthy Me Healthy Communities (running Gorton Central Community Centre), High bank Bowling Club, Friends of Vine Street Park, Gordon Street Resident Group, Debdale Bowling and Social Club, Men's Shed, Trinity Baptist Church
- **Health sector:** Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO)
- **Housing sector:** Southway Housing, Bolton at Home, Jigsaw Homes, One Manchester
- **Local authority:** Manchester City Council, local Councillors

To improve stakeholders' representation, AbilityNet and later the Council's digital inclusion team as well as Trinity Baptist Church were invited to represent the domain of Communication and information and the faith sector respectively. For transport domain, we had representatives of resident-led local groups i.e. Debdale Ramblers and Abbey Hey Walking Group to give voices on active travel and walking. Local Councillors helped build connection to Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to follow up the

community safety and bus transport issues, respectively.

Good demographical and geographical representation was seen in resident members (around 50% of the board) - older men, people from social housing and private housing, living in different zones across Abbey Hey – Ewan Street (east side), Constable Street, Gorton Mill House (middle), Gordon Street, Harrop Street (west side) – and other Gorton areas.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) was developed to set out the purpose, structure, roles and responsibilities, decision making, monitoring, meetings and communication of the board. After discussion, the board's name was confirmed to be 'Abbey Hey Gorton Ageing in Place Partnership Board'. Regular meetings were held at Southway's Gorton Mill House meeting room, where we discussed ageing in place issues and solutions, development of action plan, use of project funding, etc. Members were well informed of the project updates with meeting notes, finance record and presentation slides. Powerful progress has been seen, from no ideas on what this project is about and how to make funding decision, to increasing involvement, active discussions, more collaborations and connections, to wider support and longer-term commitment to AIP sustainability plan.

Our Partnership: formation, strengths, and learning (cont.)

Trusted relationships among residents and stakeholders is the essential foundation of partnerships and contribution by partners with their knowledge, local understanding, expertise, networking, assets and resources.

Resident members were empowered and became more confident in getting involved in discussions, giving views and suggestions, asking questions, working together in projects, volunteering in activities, sharing or presenting their stories, interviewing people in front of camera, taking more leading role such as Member of the Age Friendly Manchester Older People's Board, Walk Ambassadors, panel members to assess grant proposals and select design winners. These members did influence other people to be more aware of the community developments that matter to them.

Stakeholder members actively involved in several projects. Key partners have been identified for future partnership - Healthy Me Healthy Communities, Manchester City Council, Manchester Local Care Organisation.

Further collaborations and partnerships involved more agencies, groups and individuals in various ways - doing promotion, conducting engagements and consultations to listening to the voices of older people, working together in projects to improve the environment, delivering information and advice, organising events, activities and services etc.

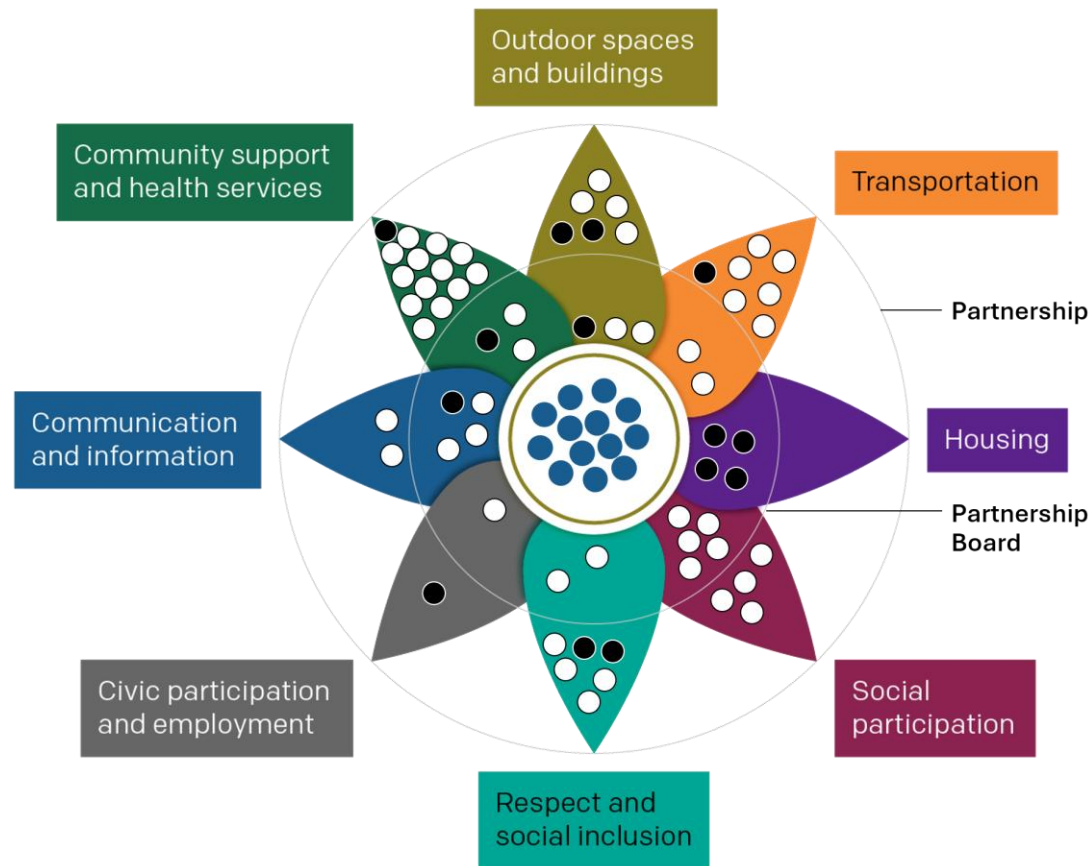
“I’m more confident to introduce my name and say more things in the meetings. I even ask other people what they want in order to do it better.”

Pat, resident member of the board and Walk Ambassador

“There are plans to build houses, a park, and a seating area at the Secret Lake. We will have to do a before and after walk. The plans look good.”

Chris, Walk Ambassador

Our Partnership: network analysis



Key:

- Individuals in organisational roles
- Residents
- Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise sector

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Domain	Partnership Board	Partner(s)
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	Manchester City Council (Neighbourhood Team), Friends of Vine Street Park, Gordon Street Resident Group	Groundwork, Manchester School of Architecture, Manchester City Council (Highways), Friends of Yellow Brick Road, Railway Paths Ltd, Biffa
Social Participation	Healthy Me Healthy Communities, Debdale Bowling and Social Club, Men's Shed, Highbank Bowling Club, Trinity Baptist Church	Oasis Centre Gorton, Manchester Monastery, Rogue Arts, Tibetan Kitchen (Gorton Hub café)
Respect and Social Inclusion	Age Friendly Manchester Older People's Board, Healthy Me Healthy Communities	Greater Manchester Police, Manchester City Council, Women Arise, Age UK, Manchester Settlement, African And Caribbean Care Group
Communication and Information	AbilityNet, Manchester City Council (Digital Inclusion team), Healthy Me Healthy Communities, Gorton Mill House	Tesco Supermarket, Gorton Market
Transport	Debdale Ramblers, Abbey Hey Walking Group	TfGM, Nightingale & Sage (walk leader), Chorlton Bike Deliveries, Rochdale Cycling Without Age, Wheels for All, Station South, Cycling UK
Civic Participation and Employment	Healthy Me Healthy Communities	Manchester City Council
Housing	Southway Housing's Gorton Mill House, Bolton at Home (formerly as Arcon Housing), One Manchester, Jigsaw Homes	One Manchester's Thomas Regan Court, Patrick Roddy Court, Westbrook Court
Community Support and Health	Healthy Me Healthy Communities, Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO), Manchester City Council (Public Health team)	Manchester Active, Manchester Monastery, Vocals, Manchester Camerata, CO-OP, Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, Be Well, Across Ummah, Nuffield Health, Health Innovation Manchester, Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre, Inspired Taskforce, Citizens Advice, The University of Manchester (School of Health Sciences), Gorton Cemetery, Community Thriving Together, Heart and Parcel

Building relationships and working together

Summary of engagement approach

In Gorton and Abbey Hey

210 residents

over 50 years old

have been engaged by the Pathfinder

These residents have had the opportunity to express voice and experience to influence action planning by responding to these questions:

- What's it like to live here?
- How can we make it better
- How can we work together?

How:

- 'Tell Me About Gorton' event
- Walk and Talks
- Micro-residency creative project
- Creative Ageing Mapping workshop
- Digital needs survey
- Themed consultations – alleyway cleanliness, transport, green spaces, social activities, café provision, community garden, community safety
- Map workshops
- Bench walkabouts
- Site visits to green and outdoor spaces, pavements, bridges, trishaw routes
- PCSO visits and conversations with residents
- Partnership Board meetings
- Subgroup / panel meetings for trip activities and bridge mural project
- Community Audit pre-survey and post-survey
- Event feedback form

Where:

- Gorton Mill House + café
- Gorton Central Community Centre
- Cycleways: Yellow Brick Road, Fallowfield Loop
- Green and blue spaces: Vine Street Park, King George V Park, Memorial Garden, Cat Valley (green field), The Croft (green space), Highbank Bowling Club, Butterfly Garden, Gorton Heritage Trail, Debdale Park, Bowling and Social Club, Sewing and Upcycling
- Gordon Street alleyways
- Trinity Baptist Church - The Vine for over 55s
- Bridges in Abbey Hey
- Gorton Train Station
- Gorton Hub (Library, GP, job centre), Gorton Market, Tesco supermarket
- Manchester Monastery
- The Oasis Centre Gorton
- Regan Thomas Court
- Gorton Cemetery
- Streets and cycling routes in and around Abbey Hey

Building relationships and working together

- Walking routes designed with residents and a walk leader to produce a community map. Weekly walk sessions led by the walk leader to build up confidence and knowledge of older people, which transitioned into a resident-led walking group with trained Walk Ambassadors.
- Funded a trishaw with additional funding by TfGM. Chorlton Bike Deliveries (South Manchester Cycling Without Age) delivered training to volunteers to become Trishaw Pilots who can take older people out and about with the trishaw safely. Rochdale Cycling Without Age shared their experience and Southway Housing developed a set of policies and procedures for Trishaw Programme which includes volunteering training, risk assessment, and ride booking mechanism. An existing volunteer was trained to be Trishaw Trainer who is managed to provide training to new volunteers. Building friendship between volunteer pilots and resident passengers is a very encouraging outcome.
- Gorton Mill café's quality has been improved by Southway Housing with better prices, food quality and staff services by considering tenants' voices in the selection process of new café provider. Gorton Mill House enhanced their dissemination of community and activity information through newsletters, noticeboards and flyer stands; organised men's club; and provided venue for meetings.
- Close partnership built with Healthy Me Healthy Communities (HMHC) which runs the Gorton Central Community Centre where there is a hall venue and meeting rooms equipped with toilets and kitchen, a community garden, existing older people volunteers, and chair-based exercise class. A safe and welcoming Age Friendly Space was co-created by residents and HMHC for every Monday drop-in with same time and same location, which built up trust and collaboration opportunities between residents and the centre. HMHC trained many volunteers, consulted residents on the activities and invited a wide range of agencies to visit the Monday drop-in. Residents appreciated the calendar of activities, social eating events and improved garden area. One older person volunteer of the centre has joined the Council's Age Friendly Manchester Older People's Board as Member to represent the voices of older people. HMHC are looking for further funding opportunities to continue the established momentum in Gorton.
- Worked with a steering group of older people volunteers to plan the future of Age-Friendly Space at the community centre.
- Manchester School of Architecture (MSA) consulted older residents how to improve the Gorton Central community garden.

Building relationships and working together (cont.)

- Partnered with an artist Sam Owen Hull to engage older residents interactively through micro-residency creative workshops to understand what it's like to live in the area, what they value the most and what they want to see improvements.
- Partnered with Groundwork to engage residents to understand their views and challenges on alleyway cleanliness, fly-tipping locations, what the communities want to improve, and how to enhance unused green spaces. Community consultations and events, litter picks, and corporate volunteering were carried out on The Croft for site clearing, planting wildflowers, building confidence and ownership of the space.
- Worked closely with the neighbourhood team at Manchester City Council to improve the neighbourhood with benches, bridge murals, nicer green spaces, better pavements and steps access. Residents attended site visits to identify potential bench locations, took part in panel to select winning entries in bridge mural design competition, and expressed views on how to improve green spaces. Other partners such as Railway Paths Ltd, the Council's Parks team, Highways, housing provider and GMP also involved regarding land ownership permission and advice giving.
- Schools and the community members actively took part in bridge mural design competition while mural artists were commissioned on bridge painting. Manchester City Council, Southway Housing,

Healthy Me Healthy Communities and Trinity Baptist Church formed a subgroup to plan the bridge mural project with site visits to bridges.

- Local Councillors gave advice on bench and bridge locations; answered questions and involved discussions relating to ageing in place in the partnership board meetings; linked the Pathfinder to GMP and TfGM.
- Southway Housing as the Pathfinder Lead attended ward meetings, TAN meetings, Frontline workers meetings to build up neighbourhood-based networking and exchange information. For example, the Council's neighbourhood team linked the AIP Partnership to Gorton Cemetery for bereavement services and also to Gorton Hub team for older people events.
- Housing providers organised litter-pick activities and coordinated the cultural festival events with other local groups such as Women Arise and Across Ummah.
- Gather, Eat, Move grant provided to community organisations by the Age Friendly Manchester public health team at Manchester City Council to promote healthy exercise and social eating for people over 50s in Gorton and Abbey Hey. Older residents were invited to be the panel members.

Building relationships and working together (further cont.)

- Worked with Debdale Men's Shed and Bowling and Social Club to improve the Aviary room for activities, and to continue winter indoor bowling provision. Learnt from Debdale Ramblers to form a new walking group at Abbey Hey. [Men's Shed video](#)
- Worked with Trinity Baptist Church to fund the ukulele group for older people at the Vine drop-in session for over 55s.
- Worked with Ability Net on digital needs survey and provision of digital training and support for older people.
- Worked with Gorton Mill residents and other older residents to plan and organise trip activities. Southway Housing equipped them with knowledge, useful information (e.g. coach company contacts) and skills to become Trip Coordinators for future trips.
- Partnered with Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) to promote health and wellbeing activities at GPs and arrange vaccination van for older people.
- Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) representatives attended Better Transport Workshop to explain the city-wide transport strategy, change of bus franchise etc. Residents' discontent on bus transport and suggested solutions were captured.
- Police visits to the community centre and Gorton Mill House to meet older residents to listen to their community safety concerns. The Council's community safety team organised consultation session to capture older residents' views to shape the city's Community Safety Strategy.
- The Council's digital inclusion team and The University of Manchester's School of Health Sciences recruited older people to use Keep On Keep Up (KOKU) health app for falls prevention and provide them with free tablet devices.
- Wide support from other community locations to promote and disseminate AIP activities and messages – e.g. Gorton Hub, Gorton Market, Gorton Library, Tesco supermarket, Manchester Monastery, The Oasis Centre, Age UK charity shops, Manchester Settlement.
- Worked with Yellow Jigsaw to train two residents to become Pathfinder Press Reporters to amplify local voices. [Pathfinder Press video at Debdale Park](#) and [podcast at Age Friendly Futures Summit](#).
- Hosted a training session by Good Practice Mentors with older people volunteers to build up capacity and confidence to sustain the Monday drop-in group.

Impact Story with Pat C

“I have moved to the Gorton Mill House (‘GMH’) for more than 3 years. When I first moved in the flat, I did not go anywhere, even going downstairs.

From 2022 I have participated in the Ageing in Place Pathfinder Project (‘AIP Project’) in Gorton and started a number of volunteering – setting up tables and preparing tea and coffee in a social space at a community centre just next to GMH on Monday afternoons; becoming one of the Walk Ambassadors leading the weekly community walks on Wednesday mornings, welcoming new members, promoting walking, and maintaining the walking group; joining the Ageing in Place Partnership Board as one of the resident members and attending meetings; planning trip day out activities for older people.

I love volunteering. It definitely made a difference to me and changed my life. If I were not joining the AIP Project and not doing any of that, I would just be shopping or watching television, just a normal life. Now I can find a purpose in life. It is nice meeting different people and making friends. I remembered a new walking lady told me that she lived in the neighbourhood but has never been to Debdale Park. I enjoy doing things together. I’m more confident to introduce my name and says more things in the meetings. I even ask other people what they want in order to do it better. I feel a sense of achievement and proud of myself after completing a mental health first aid training course and getting a certificate.

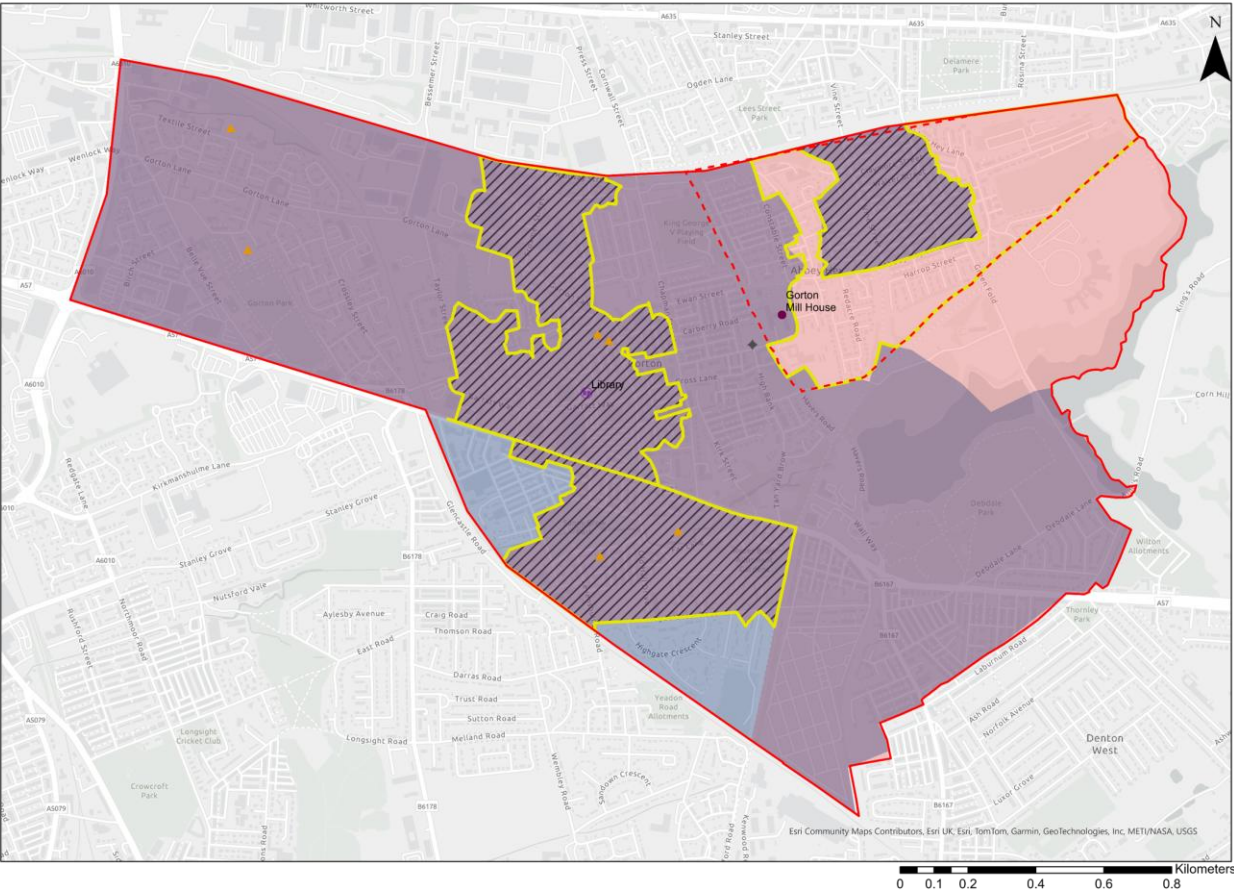
I feel happier and more connected to the community. I feel healthier to go out and about on the walk and get fresh air. I think my life is better and enjoyable. I can’t image so many good things are happening in my neighbourhood and feel lucky to live in the community. I’m willing to continue volunteering the resident-led walking group.”



Pat C is a Gorton Mill House resident, Walk Ambassador, Trip Coordinator, Partnership Board Member, and Pathfinder Press Reporter

Action Planning

Gorton and Abbey Hey, Manchester: Respect and Social Inclusion, and Communication and Information



Finding 1

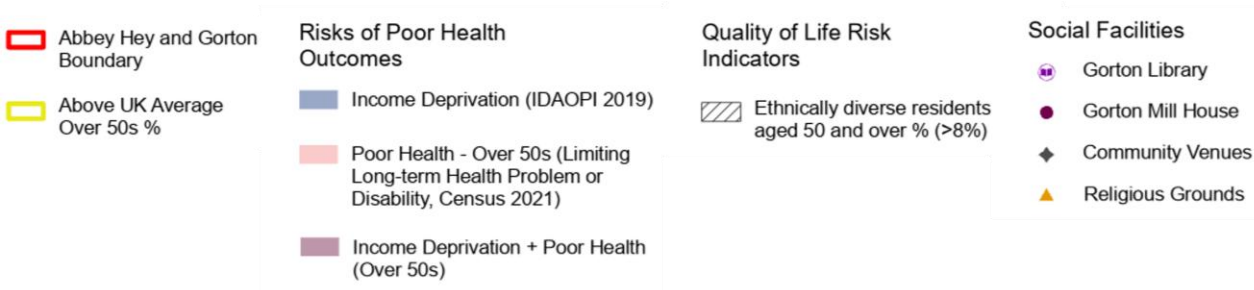
Higher than the national average of older population to the centre of the neighbourhood experience significant income and health inequalities.

Finding 2

Areas of older residents with greater ethnic diversity (>8%) also experience significant income and health inequalities.

Finding 3

Whilst older residents on the edges of Abbey Hey only appear to have considerable poor health outcomes, older residents to the centre of Abbey Hey experience both income and health inequalities.



Action Plan: Respect and Social Inclusion

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Older residents in specialist accommodation or living independently report issues with feeling like behaviour towards them as they grow older has changed and they feel like life in the neighbourhood has changed.
- Negative experiences of ageism are affecting local older residents' everyday lives.
- Older residents experience lack of respect due to lack of local amenities that are available.
- Disconnect between older residents who have lived in the area for a long time and newer residents or short-term renters who are perceived to be less responsible to the community.
- Negative experiences of Gorton Mill House café with poor quality and its closure.
- Found it difficult to contact GP doctors as it was all online/ telephone, feelings 'inadequate' and 'useless'.
- Poor perception towards young people over anti-social behaviour, speeding cars, offroad bikes.
- The neighbourhood is scruffy & dingy and have a general sense of no one care about this area.

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- Gorton Central Community Centre
- Gorton Mill House and café
- Bridges at Abbey Hey area
- Manchester City Council
- Other housing providers – Bolton at Homes, Jigsaw Homes, One Manchester
- Women Arise
- Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO)

Proposals:

- Consult local older people to understand what they would want an 'Age-Friendly Space' to look like and invite them to consultations.
- Reopening of Gorton Mill café with better price, food and staff.
- Bridge mural project to beautify the neighbourhood with artwork.
- Link residents to PCSOs to reflect community safety concerns.
- Celebrating Gorton Cultural Festival with cultural performances by young people, understanding of diverse cultures and storytelling of histories, memories and older people stories.

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

Completed:

- Invited the community in the new Gorton Public Square consultation.
- Engaged older residents in Yellow Brick Road improvement meetings.
- Gorton Mill café reopened by new café provider with better quality.
- Celebrating Gorton Cultural Festival at Gorton Park coordinated by Bolton at Homes and Women Arise.
- Events for 50s at Gorton Hub such as winter ready event and VE celebration event.
- PCSOs visited the Age-Friendly Space to listen to older residents' concerns.
- Trishaw project by volunteers to reduce social loneliness and isolation.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Gorton Mill café as a community café
- Age-Friendly Space (until Dec 2025 and beyond subject to additional funding)
- Bridge mural project
- Cost of Living booklet for Gorton and Levenshulme (pending subject to funding)

Action Plan: Communication and Information

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Some older people do not like digital means and perceived it as a barrier e.g. e-banking, self-check at supermarkets, telephone or online medical booking system.
- Fear of scam and online security.
- Some older people do not own a smart phone, or their mobile phones and laptops are too old to use, causing limited communication.
- Some older people forget on what they learnt in digital knowledge without frequent use.
- Lack of digital knowledge and need to rely on family to help, making them feel inability to be independent and feel 'inadequate' and 'useless'

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- Gorton Mill House
- Gorton Central Community Centre
- Gorton Library
- Manchester City Council (digital inclusion team)
- AbilityNet

Proposals:

- Fun sessions to overcome anxiety and develop confidence in using digital.
- Digital sessions needed to help residents access to GP doctors' online system.
- Digital learning to be integrated with older people clubs/ groups e.g. coffee morning + digital use.
- Intergenerational exchange / computer buddies where young people to teach digital skills while older people to share traditional skills.

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

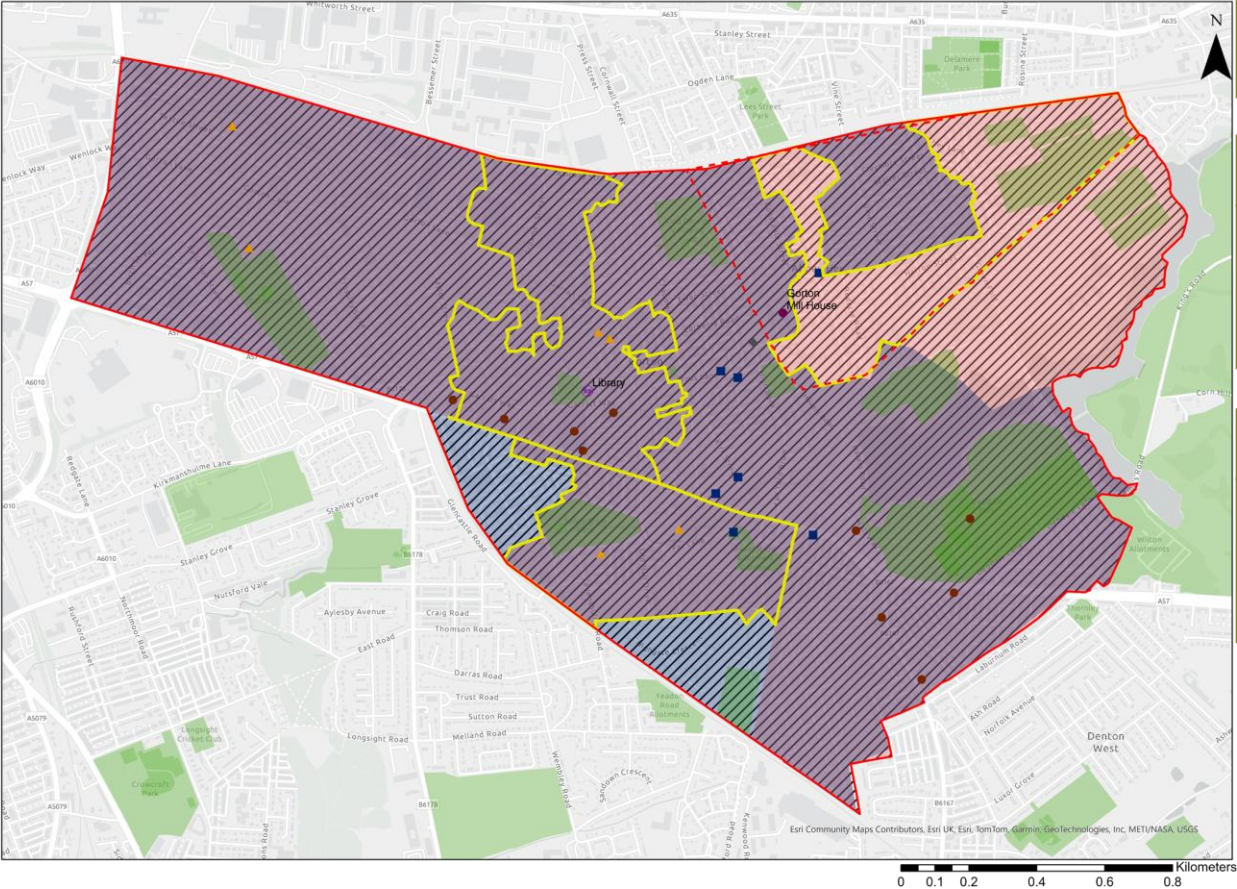
Completed:

- Digital needs survey and digital training and support (1to1 and group) to older people by Ability Net.
- KOKU (Keep On Keep Up) health digital app with provision of free tablet devices to older people by the Council's digital inclusion team.
- Installation of a community information board at Memorial Garden.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Free Wi-Fi available at Gorton Mill café, Gorton Central Community Centre, Gorton Hub, Gorton Library.
- A WhatsApp group already in place for Abbey Hey walking group.
- Digital health hubs at several community locations in Gorton and Abbey Hey to increase support for people to access health services digitally.
- Resume Age Friendly Manchester Newspaper (paper copy) and monthly Age Friendly Manchester E-Bulletin disseminated by the Council.

Gorton and Abbey Hey: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, and Social Participation



Finding 1

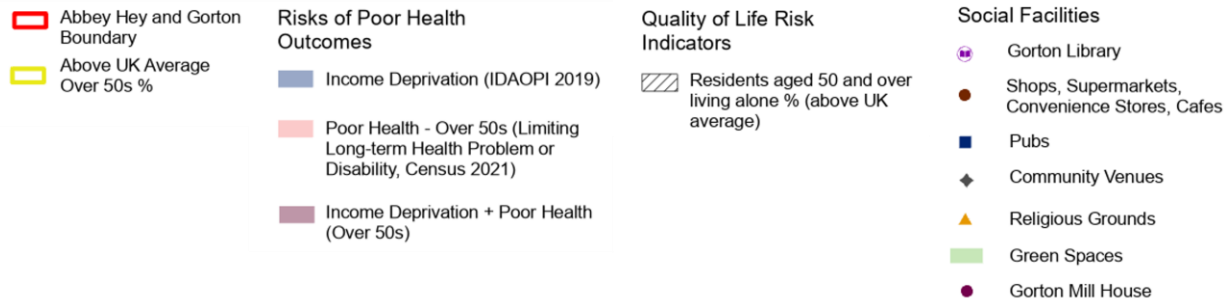
Local amenities are unevenly distributed as these are largely located beyond Abbey Hey boundary, yet within Gorton.

Finding 2

About 2/3 of older residents in the neighbourhood who experience significant income and health inequalities are also living alone.

Finding 3

There are several green spaces across the neighbourhood and in the surrounding area.



Action Plan: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Fly-tipping and litter problem in streets and alleyways.
- Lack of seating / benches for older residents in Abbey Hey area.
- Uneven and poor pavement on Alston Road and Yellow Brick Road cycleway, not good for walking and cycling.
- Hidden and poor steps access to green space 'Cat Valley'.
- Poor maintenance for green space 'The Croft' causing underused.
- Poor maintenance, cleanliness and facilities for Vine Street Park.
- Poor maintenance and inaccessible path with unwanted vegetation at Butterfly Garden and Gorton Heritage Trail.
- Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, lack of police/ PCSOs patrol and lack of street lighting make people feel unsafe to go out alone and at night and access other facilities nearby.
- Older people find it difficult to attend PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings at Gorton Hub and in the evening time.
- New neighbours do not know each other and not sure where are safe places to go.

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- Gorton Mill House, Gorton Central garden
- Groundwork, Manchester City Council
- Green spaces 'The Croft' and 'Cat Valley'
- Vine Street Park, Debdale Park and Reservoirs
- Two cycleways: Yellow Brick Road and Fallowfield Loop for walking and cycling
- Butterfly Garden; Gorton Heritage Trail

Proposals:

- Groundwork to explore greening solutions.
- Increase litter picks, install benches at more visible areas.
- Upkeep of the area - improve Alston Road, Cat Valley steps, The Croft, Vine Street Park, Butterfly Garden and Gorton Heritage Trail.
- Yellow Brick Road improvement - enhancing lighting, resurfacing paths, improving entrances.
- Gorton Central to make their garden to be more age-friendly and accessible with better furniture and facilities.
- Walking project to explore safe routes and develop walking buddies.

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

Completed:

- Litter picks by Groundwork, the Council and housing providers.
- Improved Alston Road and Yellow Brick Road with better and widen pavement, and lighting under the bridge.
- Improved green space The Croft with wildflowers and clean-up.
- Improved Gorton Central garden with accessible raised planters, picnic benches, accessible toilets, new roof.
- Walking project (with TfGM Cycle and Stride Grant) - Abbey Hey Walking Group, Community map with age-friendly routes, Walk Handbook.
- GMP operations with new drone unit to tackle alleged drug dealing and address offroad bikes.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Regular litter picks by community stakeholders.
- Resident-led walking group.
- Install benches at Abbey Hey locations.
- Improve Cat Valley steps, add new play equipment at Vine Street Park, improve Butterfly Garden and Gorton Heritage Trail (in progress).

Action Plan: Social Participation

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Lack of social gathering location / social eating locations.
- Absence of activities available in Abbey Hey for older people.
- Lack of knowledge and awareness of what is happening in the area, including activities.
- Lack of activities for men in the neighbourhood.
- Low attendance/ motivation of people to join activities due to worries about attending for the first time.
- Some older people who are living alone feel socially isolated.

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- Gorton Central Community Centre
- Gorton Mill House and café
- Debdale Social and Bowling Club, Men's Shed
- Trinity Baptist Church
- Charlton Bike Deliveries
- Manchester City Council
- Manchester Monastery

Proposals:

- A space for older people for social gathering and eating.
- Provide a variety of activities including intergenerational exchange, men's activities, creating artwork to appreciate social history and older people's stories.
- Develop calendar of activities available for people over 50s in the area.
- Increase men's activity opportunities.
- Volunteers or buddying scheme to overcome the anxiety of residents attending new groups.
- Provide taster sessions to promote attendance.

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

Completed:

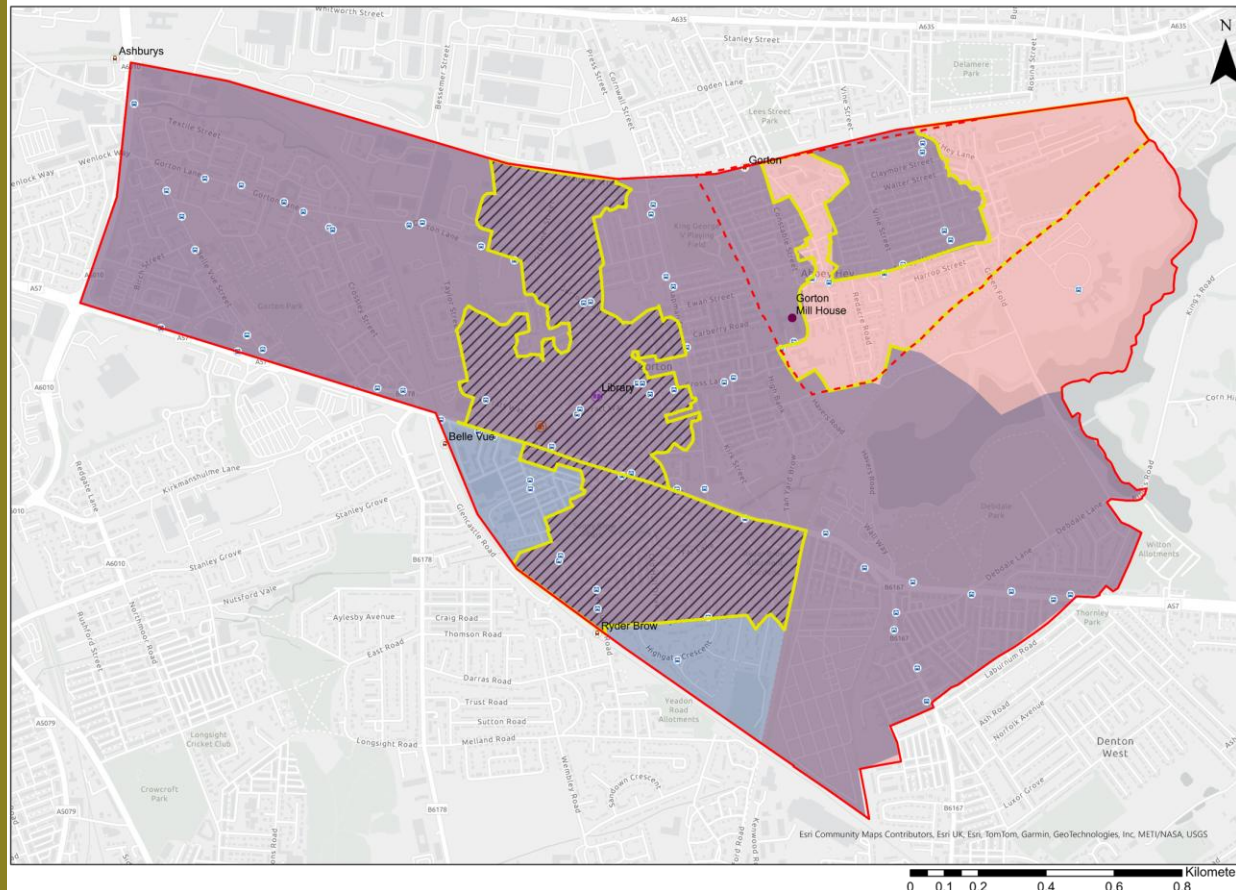
- Increased capability of Gorton Central Community Centre with staff, volunteers, equipment and resources.
- Funded coaches for trips for older people.
- Funded room hire for Debdale winter indoor bowling.
- Celebrating Gorton Cultural Festival.
- Gather, Eat and Move Grant to promote social eating and healthy exercise for over 50s.
- Trained trishaw volunteers by Charlton Bike Deliveries and provided free trishaw rides.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Age-Friendly Space at Gorton Central (until Dec 2025 and beyond subject to additional funding).
- Improved The Aviary room for Men's Shed and Sewing & Upcycling group at Debdale.
- Men's club at Gorton Mill House.
- Ukulele group at The Vine for over 55s.
- Gorton Central updating the activity calendar.
- Over 50s activities at Gorton Hub and Manchester Monastery.



Gorton and Abbey Hey: Transport, and Civic Participation and Employment



Finding 1

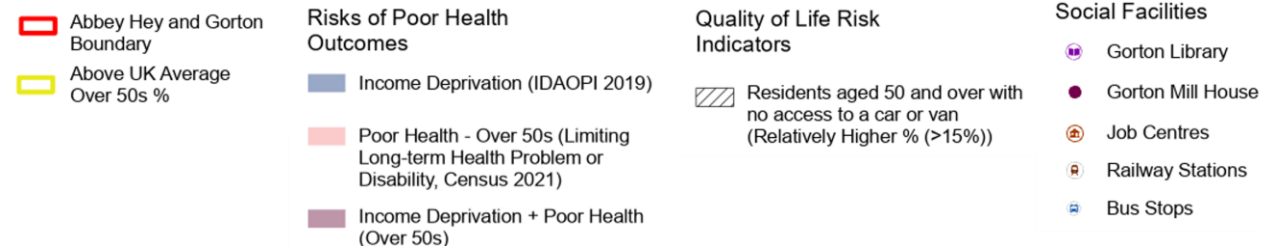
Higher than the national average of older residents to the centre of the neighbourhood likely experience multiple, overlapping disadvantages: economic, health-related, and transport-related.

Finding 2

Many older residents in central Gorton lack access to a car or van and rely heavily on public transport, which is unevenly distributed across the area. This limits mobility, access to services, and opportunities for social and civic participation.

Finding 3

Key facilities like job centres, Gorton Library, and Gorton Mill House are concentrated centrally, leaving peripheral areas such as Abbey Hey and south Gorton less connected to employment and community resources.



Action Plan: Transport

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Bus no.7 unreliable, less frequent, longer travel time after rerouting, crowded bus at school times and with single deck bus; reduced bus routes after Covid; no or limited night buses.
- No shelter and seating at some bus stops.
- Residents mainly rely on bus travel for leisure swimming facilities, banking and shopping, but fewer busses go through Abbey Hey.
- Difficult or too far to get to Hyde Rd where more buses are available.
- Lack of local transport to connect people to nearby locations within the neighbourhood.
- Limited access to public transport information by some older people with poor digital access.
- Unfair to have same bus fare (£2) for both shorter and longer journeys.
- Poorly maintained Gorton and Belle Vue train stations - e.g. looks too old, poor pavement, fence and platform, hidden path with vegetation, dark.
- Speeding cars and offroad bikes.
- Absence of safe crossing at Hyde Road to Debdale Park.
- Falmer Close crossing near Wright Robinson College needs addressing due to school traffic.

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- The area appears to be largely well served by the local bus transport network, except for Abbey Hey area.
- Gorton Mill House cycling facilities.
- Manchester City Council

Proposals:

- Better bus transport and benches for bus waiting.
- Walking bus (buddying to walk together to a common destination).
- Trishaw bike to take older people to nearby green and blue spaces.
- Community mini-bus to take residents to local shops and other activities and back.
- Volunteer driver scheme.
- Improve train stations and crossing facilities.

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

Completed:

- Better Transport Workshop with TfGM to understand the needs and how to improve.
- Walking project - developed Abbey Hey walking group.
- Trishaw project (with TfGM Community Access Grant) to train volunteers and deliver rides to older people to connect them to outdoor spaces.
- PCSO met local residents to understand concerns of speeding cars and offroad bikes.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Resident-led walking group running weekly walks.

Action Plan: Civic Participation and Employment

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Lack of knowledge about what support is available for older people to find jobs.
- Limited volunteering opportunities for older residents.

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- Gorton Central Community Centre
- Job Centre Plus at Gorton Hub.
- The Oasis Centre in Gorton
- Gorton Mill House

Proposals:

- Better promote volunteering opportunities within the neighbourhood.
- Recruit and train local people to be volunteers.
- Share Ageing in Place Action Plan and encourage older people to comment and share.
- Empower older people to help at activities/projects.

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

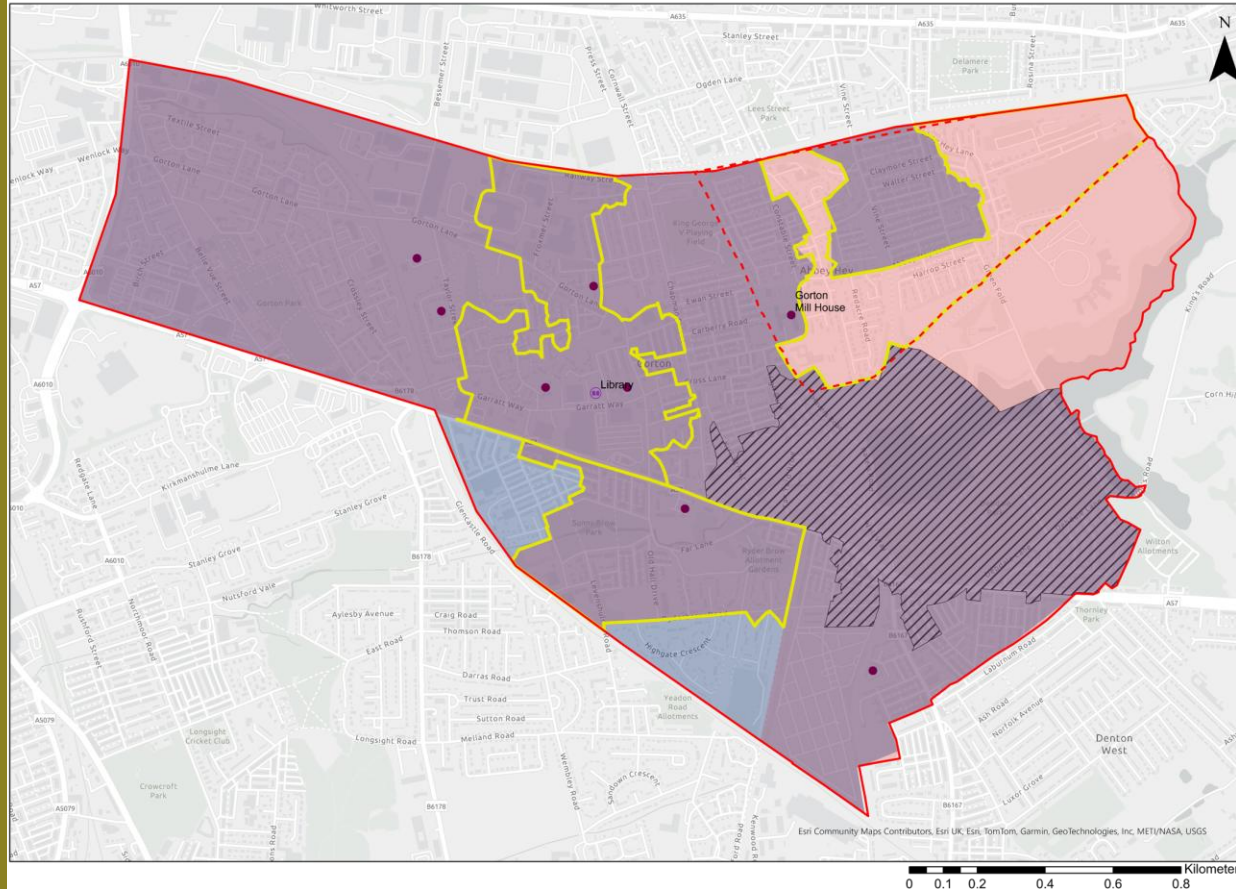
Completed:

- Training of Walk Ambassadors by the walk leader.
- Southway trained older people to be Trip coordinators with knowledge and skills for organising trip activities.
- Gorton Central trained volunteers of Age Friendly Space.
- Gorton Central delivered job skills workshop.
- Shared Ageing in Place Action Plan at partnership board and encouraged older people to comment and share.
- Volunteering by Trishaw Pilots to give rides to older people.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Southway Housing keep inviting scheme residents to be volunteers for newsletter distribution and events helpers.
- Scheme residents organising regular table-top sales at Gorton Mill House.
- Gorton Central provides volunteering opportunities and signposts people to Job Centre.
- The Oasis Centre is running a job club and training courses.

Gorton and Abbey Hey: Housing, and Community Support and Health



Finding 1

Older residents to the east of the neighbourhood, who experience significant income and health inequalities also work as unpaid carers.

Finding 2

Older residents in specialist housing across Abbey Hey and Gorton experience significant income and health inequalities.

Finding 3

Specialist housing and key community facilities are concentrated in central Gorton, leaving outlying areas, especially in the west and south, with fewer accessible housing and support options for older adults and those with health needs.

Abbey Hey and Gorton Boundary
Above UK Average Over 50s %

Risks of Poor Health Outcomes
Income Deprivation (IDAOP1 2019)
Poor Health - Over 50s (Limiting Long-term Health Problem or Disability, Census 2021)
Income Deprivation + Poor Health (Over 50s)

Quality of Life Risk Indicators
Unpaid carers aged 50 and over % (Relatively higher % (>20%))

Social Facilities
Gorton Library
Gorton Mill House
Specialist Housing

Action Plan: Housing

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Lack of suitable housing.
- Lots of houses being built but no facilities to support.
- Build more bungalow without stairs for disabled people.
- Feel happy to live in Extra Care scheme.
- Too many short terms lets.
- Lack of resident groups and community centre.
- Desire and need for trustworthy handyman services directory.

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- Manchester City Council
- Southway Housing
- Bolton at Home
- Jigsaw Homes
- One Manchester
- Some schemes already organise activities, such as Christmas dinners, afternoon teas and Bingo.

Proposals:

- Fewer private housing so people can be more connected with each other at the scheme.
- Facilitate meetings between residents and housing providers to look at issues and co-design solutions.
- Develop a directory of reliable and affordable handyman services for older people.
- Explore Care and Repair

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

Completed:

- Shared findings with housing providers and the Council for planning future housing in the area.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Selective licensing scheme in place to cover Abbey Hey area to improve the conditions of private rented housing.
- Resume the Gorton Social Housing Provider Network (paused).
- Regular litter picks organised by housing associations.
- Residents committee at Gorton Mill House (being considered by Southway Housing).

Action Plan: Community Support and Health

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Some older residents concerned about accessing GP appointments – longer waiting time, lower chance of face-to-face appointment to doctors / nurses, insufficient doctors and dentists.
- Difficult to find support for wrong delivery of pharmacy.
- Limited access to local vaccination.
- Older residents worrying about their health.
- Lack of knowledge about where the food banks and food clubs are.
- Cost of living and energy crisis.
- Underused free session for over 50s at Belle Vue Leisure Centre.
- Lack of neighbourhood level support services to reach out people over 50s who are living alone or socially isolated.

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- Gorton Hub
- Gorton Central Community Centre
- Belle Vue Leisure Centre
- Manchester Active
- The Oasis Centre
- Nuffield Health
- Manchester City Council
- Vocal (Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust)

Proposals:

- Explore the feasibility of online doctors at Gorton Central.
- Shorten the waiting time to see GP doctors and specialists.
- Recruit and train volunteers to show care and provide support (e.g. befriending, home visits) to living alone people and explore effective ways to locate these people.

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

Completed:

- Arranged vaccination van at Gorton Central.
- Referred older people to the free joint pain programme by Nuffield Health.
- Winter ready event for over 55s at Gorton Hub to share useful information.
- Introduced KOKU (Keep On Keep Up) health digital app to older people for falls prevention.
- Completed a study by the Vocals on top 10 health priorities that matter most to local residents in the area for further research.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Free gym and exercise sessions for older residents over 50s at Belle Vue Leisure Centre.
- Digital health hubs at several community locations in Gorton and Abbey Hey to increase support for people to access health services digitally (launching soon).
- Cost of Living booklet for Gorton and Levenshulme (pending subject to funding).

Projects

1. Walking project

Additional funding from TfGM has supported residents to start a walking group with free waterproof jackets and free meal walk lunch, to design four walking routes, a [walking map](#) and [handbook](#) and to train five Walk Ambassadors to lead weekly community walks. The walking activities attracted over 300 attendances since October 2023, including older men and individuals with mobility difficulties. Members stay connected and support each other through a WhatsApp group. Residents report feeling welcome, making friends, feeling safer and more confident to walk in the community with benefits for both physical and mental health. Local GPs and social prescribers were engaged to promote walking, and the group has reported unsafe walking areas to the Council and also identified potential locations for bench installation. The success was featured by a [video](#). It has been extended to build another walking group in Burnage.

“I love this walking group. I have made some lovely new friends.”

#AgeingInPlaceGM

“I love this walking group. The people are so welcoming. It helps to cope with my illness and mental health.”

“The walking group is good for the soul and giving me structure in the day. We support each other on our journey of life.”



Walking group



(left) Map workshop
(right) Walk lunch at Gorton Mill café

Impact Story with Karen

“I retired from work around a year ago. It was strange when I retired, I had worked for a long time, and I wanted to continue to fill up my days with activities – I didn’t just want to stay at home and watch TV. I had friends who were already retired and had activities in Gorton.

Knowing from a Gorton Mill House resident, I came to the Age Friendly Space at Gorton Central Community Centre on a Monday afternoon. Advertising the walking group in the Age Friendly Space was how I heard about the walking group. I was engaged from the very beginning, completing the initial walks with the walk leader, which were very informative. I learned about birds and wildlife. I was enthusiastic to join the group for the walk lunch social eating activities at Gorton Mill Café. Being part of the walking group has made me feel more confident.

I also joined the map workshops, which were enjoyable in creating walking routes within the environment. I have lived in Gorton a long time and I was still discovering places that I never knew existed. When I was at work, I walked to work and home and then we would go out in the car at weekends, I never had time to explore the local area.

Walking has been a great way to keep fit and meet new people. I have got to know many new people from walking – people that are now my friends. This experience has given me a reason to get up and out of bed. I know I am going to feel better when I have done it, and I miss it when the weather is bad, or I cannot attend.”



Karen (on left in pink shirt), active member of Abbey Hey walking group



Karen (in the front) taking the selfie photo with the walking group

2. Age-Friendly Space

Partnered with Healthy Me Healthy Communities, Gorton Central Community Centre has created a space providing free tea and toast on Mondays. About 100 weekly sessions since July 2023 attracted over 1,600 attendances. 40+ partner organisations have contributed to creating a vibrant, inclusive space providing a platform for socialisation, accessing activities, services, advice and information, learning new things, social eating and volunteering. Residents had a voice in shaping activities and helped to lead some sessions. Activities included energy advice, scam awareness, digital support, health checks, cooking, relaxation, arts and crafts, exercise, inclusive cycling, consultation workshops. Residents reported stronger peer relationships and motivating each other to join other social activities beyond the space. Residents appreciated the calendar of activities as they are well informed of what activities are available to people over 50s. The space is complemented by the men's club at Gorton Mill House. This space helps to reduce loneliness and isolation and provide some financial support under cost-of-living crisis.

#AgeingInPlaceGM

“Provides a warm and social caring, information, new friends and a very happy place to be.”



What the Age friendly space means to you?

- An important space, a friendly space
- Get out of home, make friends
- Meet people, socialise
- Do meaningful voluntary work
- Get information, advice, variety of activities
- Relieve loneliness, enjoy and have fun, relax and chat
- Integrate into the community, sense of community,
- Improve English, a lot of help
- Good to have free tea and toast
- Joyful to eat together, festival celebrations

3. Trishaw project

Southway Housing purchased a new trishaw bike with additional funding from TfGM to start the project aiming to reduce loneliness and isolation by taking older people out and about to connect with nature, people and the community. South Manchester Cycling Without Age provided initial volunteer training while Rochdale Cycling Without Age shared their trishaw experience. The project has trained 9 trishaw pilots, risk assessed 4 routes, developed the training policies and procedures and the booking mechanism, as well as attracted over 100 attendances to trishaw events and rides since its launch in October 2024. By introducing Train the Trainer initiative, an existing experienced volunteer was trained to be Trishaw Trainer who can deliver training to new volunteers. Trishaw promotion booth was set up by volunteers outside Gorton Mill café to promote free trishaw rides to the community. The trishaw programme has been handed over to South Manchester Cycling Without Age to continue offering free rides to older people and the wider community. South Manchester Cycling Without Age is closely associated with Chorlton Bike Deliveries. To book a ride or to volunteer, contact Chorlton Bike Deliveries on 07561 737986.



#AgeingInPlaceGM

Kevin, Gorton Mill resident said the trishaw can make him go out of the building. It even aroused his interest to buy a new bike with shopping basket for cycling on his own!

The trishaw has built up a friendship between passenger Kevin and volunteer Nicola. They had an enjoyable ride along the Fallowfield Loop and a chat with tea and cake at a café.



Trishaw
Volunteers
Training

“My first time on the Trishaw and I really enjoyed it. Great to get out and about and be able to see around the area. I hope a lot of people take advantage of the ride. The Trishaw Pilot rode the bike very smoothly so that made it enjoyable.”

Diane, trishaw passenger

4. Benches and Bridge Mural project

Partnered with Manchester City Council and other landowners, it is to improve and beautify the Abbey Hey area with benches and bridge murals.

Residents were involved to identify potential bench locations in Abbey Hey, where seating benches were lacking. More visible locations were selected in consideration of avoiding anti-social behaviour. The project funded 6 age-friendly benches and a wheelchair accessible picnic table across Abbey Hey locations including The Croft green space, Memorial Garden and on the Fallowfield Loop, and Abbey Hey Lane. Residents can use these benches for seating, benefitting older people, walkers/ dog walkers, family and kids, people waiting for bus, and other members of the community.

Abbey Hey Primary School, Wright Robinson College and the community members had active participation in the bridge mural design competition. Over 230 design entries were collected. Two murals were painted by artist Richard Preston for the two bridges - one at Yellow Brick Road and the one near Vine Street Park. The murals are widely appreciated for enhancing the aesthetic value of the public spaces.



#AgeingInPlaceGM

"I live at Gorton Mill. When I go past the wall bridge, it's lovely and colourful. It makes a difference for Gorton. Nice to see it's improving."



"Love the bridge painting. It's so nice to see when passing. Colours are lovely. It's nice that Gorton is getting a bit of T.L.C. (tender loving care) and attention for a change."

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5. Green spaces and facilities improvement

Several improvement projects were completed to make green, outdoor and indoor spaces to be more safe, accessible and inclusive for activities and enjoyment: Men's Shed and Sewing & upcycling group restarted at The Aviary in Debdale with machines and safety equipment. Residents enjoy doing activities there with tea and cake and feel happy with the new windows with natural lighting.



It gives people the opportunity to enjoy a little Oasis of green amidst a sea of terrace houses. It is a space to take a big breath and relax."

#AgeingInPlaceGM

The Croft green space is now cleaned up with wildflowers and later equipped with two benches. A local resident, Cath, will continue to maintain this space with the support from Groundwork.



The commonly used cycleway Yellow Brick Road (YBR) in Abbey Hey has done the resurfacing with lighting under the bridge. Residents were involved in the Friends of YBR meetings to give voices.



Walking group members and volunteer trishaw pilots appreciated this work by the Council. No more bumpy and muddy pavement! They feel it is now much better and safer for walking, wheeling and cycling.

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Impact Story with Pat L

“I have volunteered in the Gorton Central community centre for 10 years. I appreciated the new raised beds and new picnic tables, which are now more accessible to people with disabilities.

The communal growing space is for everybody. We teach people how to grow seeds and use herbs in cooking. There are peas, spring onions, leeks, strawberries... They like to use the vegetables they are growing for cooking and eating events which help inclusion.

It's a great space and people love it. The seating area is good for meeting and chatting with people. It helps to reduce loneliness and isolation and is good for mental health and creating a sense of community. Psychologists like to use this outdoor space for 1to1 with clients. People from high-rise flats and terraced houses like to come here to enjoy the green space.”



Gorton Central
Community Garden

#AgeingInPlaceGM



[\(110\) Ageing - Pat Lamb garden tour - YouTube](#)

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Reflections and Sustainability Plan

Reflections on our journey

Ageing in Place Moving Forward

Inputs and processes

Start with understanding voices:

How? Partnership board, consultations, surveys, conversations, workshops, creative activities.

Who? Older residents with varying demographics; Stakeholders across multiple sectors (VCFSE, local authority, GMP, housing, health, digital).

What? Respect; inclusion; social connection; health, social and financial inequalities.

Start with understanding spaces and assets:

How? Map workshops, walk and talks, site visits, route risk assessment.

Where? Community centre, Extra Care scheme, café, houses, alleyways, streets, cycleways, green spaces, parks, gardens, faith venue, market, bus stops, train stations, bridges, local shops, community groups and organisations.

What? Accessibility, inclusivity, safe, availability, sufficiency, capability, easiness or friendliness to use.



Outcomes and impacts

Happier and healthier – feel being heard, feel lucky to live in this area, feel safe to go out, make friends, do exercises, enjoy activities.

Peer support and Stakeholders support - encourage other people to join other activities beyond the space and share information among themselves; stakeholders coordinate in projects.

Trust – work together on projects/actions; residents believe things can be improved; agencies buy-in AIP in service planning.

Empowered - Older people volunteers lead weekly walks and activity sessions and organise trip activities; Trishaw Trainers train volunteers.

Motivation – residents to continue age friendly space, men's shed, walking groups, maintain green spaces, take up role at AFM Older People's Board; trishaw pilots to do promotion and provide rides; stakeholders provide funding or seek additional funding.

Safe & accessible environment – green spaces, gardens, benches, bridge murals, steps, pavements.

Welcoming & inclusive spaces – age friendly space, walking space, trishaw space, community café, Men's shed, upcycling and sewing group, winter indoor bowling, church ukulele group, cultural events.

Useful resources & equipment – action plan, calendar of activities, newsletters, WhatsApp group, walking map and handbook, projection screen at community centre, windows and equipment at The Aviary in Debdale, KOKU health app, useful tips for trip activities.

Sustainability Plan

Activities / projects that continue beyond September 2025 include supporting capacity and empowerment of residents/ volunteers to lead activities; weekly walks by residents (Walk Ambassadors); trishaw rides to wider communities by volunteers; a steering group of older volunteers to plan the future of Age Friendly Space; organising trip activities by residents (Trip Coordinators) when future funding is available; continuing voices through Age Friendly Manchester Older People's Board; continuing garden planting and maintaining green spaces; ukulele group at Trinity Baptist Church. Weekly age-friendly space at Gorton Central has been extended by Healthy Me Healthy Communities to December 2025. HMHC are looking for further funding opportunities.

Pathfinder Lead has built relationships and networking with residents and partners. Some resident members of AIP partnership board are keen to join the Gorton and Levenshulme Frontline workers group and their regular meetings to exchange news and updates regarding health and wellbeing and bring them back to older people groups. The Ageing in Place Action Plan have been considered in the ward action plan by the neighbourhood team of Manchester City Council.

Southway Housing have developed their new five-year Strategic Plan and age friendly work is considered as part of this. Their new three-year Customer Voice Strategy sets out commitment to listening to customers and using feedback to influence services. Southway Housing will continue to monitor the café service quality and support the Frontline workers group with free use of Gorton Mill meeting room.

Sustainability Plan (cont.)

Key outstanding issues/ activities:

- **Poor bus transport** - Local Councillors is following up the bus transport issues with TfGM colleagues. For more information, please contact Cllrs Julie Reid and John Hughes.
- **Cost of Living booklet for Gorton and Levenshulme** - an information booklet for residents of Levenshulme and Gorton to guide people to the assets within the community with support on the cost of living, e.g. food banks, community grocers, free meals, benefits advice etc. This initiative is subject to funding availability. For more information, please contact Bethan Galliers, Health Development Coordinator, Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO).
- The **bench project and Cat Valley steps improvement** are in progress. For more information, please contact Ikhlas Ur-Rahman from neighbourhood team of Manchester City Council.
- The **Monday drop-in Age Friendly Space** has been extended to December 2025 at Gorton Central Community Centre. For more information, please contact Amanda Aitken from Healthy Me Healthy Communities.

Thank you

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Bolton	Salford
Bury	Stockport
Manchester	Tameside
Oldham	Trafford
Rochdale	Wigan