



**LIVE WELL**

**DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY WITH  
GREATER MANCHESTER'S COMMUNITIES**

**Thursday 3rd October 2024**

**Methodist Central Hall, Manchester, M1 1JQ**

## **Event programme**



**Growing community power  
to tackle health and  
wellbeing inequalities**

**Across Greater Manchester, people and places are working in new and creative ways to ensure community voice is at the heart of decision-making, changing the way support is designed and delivered, and growing community power in their neighbourhoods.**

**This work is crucial to Live Well - our joint commitment to ensure everyday support is available across Greater Manchester - to help people manage the pressures of life, live as well as they can and find good work. Only through a radical shift in how we collaborate with and support people and communities will we address and prevent ill-health, inequalities and worklessness**

From community-led voice and influence networks to legislative theatre, to poverty truth commissions, communities are laying the vital groundwork to make their voices heard. Through these spaces, communities build deep understanding of what is needed to tackle inequalities in every locality in Greater Manchester and activate their collective agency to affect change.

We know that it is not only about what happens in communities, but their relationship with decision-makers that creates lasting impact. Converting community power into direct action and change requires a fundamental shift in how systems value and work with communities.

This requires reimagining the role of the public sector, including the way neighbourhood teams work in communities. It means co-designing collaborative ways of working, and shifting the culture of our systems so that communities are directly driving agendas to improve their quality of life.

**At this Live Well event, we will explore and learn about what it takes to:**

1. Grow power **within communities**
2. Grow **community-led spaces** for positive change
3. Grow **system leaders' capacity** to centre and respond to community voice

Throughout the day, you will be invited to find the power, share your stories, chill, create, learn and connect.



# Morning agenda

## 9.30am Live Well community marketplace

An opportunity to engage with Action Networks, Equalities Panels and change makers across GM who are showcasing their work and how it is enabling community power

## 10am Hear about Live Well and its vision for growing community power and decision-making

### Listen

#### Welcome to Live Well and growing community power

Alison Mckenzie-Folan (CEO, Wigan Council)

Community reporting with Elephants Trail

Building a power aware space with GM Shapers, Open Data Manchester, GM Jokers and SAWN

### Have a break and build connections

## 11.30am Connect with inspiring community-led practice to centre community voice and power

### Listen

#### On our own terms: Community-led responses to poverty

Poverty is a core, persistent barrier to Live Well and community-led prevention, impacting people's health and wellbeing, their social mobility and job opportunities.

Across GM, there are an impressive number of anti-poverty networks identifying community-led responses to tackling poverty, benefiting health, economic growth and social stability. Hear from change-makers at the centre of GM anti-poverty action and discuss new ways of putting communities in the lead.

Listen to change-makers from: Oldham Poverty Action Network (OPAN) supported by Resolve Poverty, Tameside - Smallshaw Hurst Community Action Group, Manchester - Harpurhey Community and Debt Justice, Rochdale - Middleton Co-operating and Mama Health Poverty Partnership, Rochdale's Anti-Poverty Network

### Discuss

#### Uniting against injustice: Migrant and refugee voices for change

The recent racist riots prompted questions that many of us were already asking about identity, belonging and how we can create spaces and structures in our communities that celebrate, lift and welcome all.

Hear from GM-based migrant and refugee-led organisations and leaders about the impact of organising through shared, lived experience. Learn about communities' collective action to stay resilient in a hostile environment, and create their own pathway to Live Well.

Listen to: Afrokats, SAWN, Wai Yin and other GM migrant and refugee-led organisations

### Explore

#### Investing in relationships: The heartbeat of effective community partnerships

Strong relationships are a cornerstone of thriving communities and a key ingredient to Live Well. Few people argue that relationships do not matter but making space, resources and time for them still feels hard.

Explore new ways of fostering authentic connections and deep bonds across a diverse range of people, communities, organisations and sectors to build community-led health and wellbeing.

**Explore with:** GM Citizens

### Co-create

#### Making community power stick: How to devolve real power to neighbourhoods

Live Well is built on the experience, connections and insights of voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) and grassroots organisations. For decades, the sector has been working tirelessly to tackle persistent inequalities and is steeped in place-based knowledge and experience of putting community voice at the heart of decision-making.

The We're Right Here campaign has proposed new power sharing agreements between councils and communities. In this session we will centre learning from those working closest with communities and co-produce what this might look like in GM. Together we can build a clear ask to the wider system to grow VCFSE impact and to convert community power into direct action and lasting change.

**Co-create with:** We're Right Here Campaign Team, GM Community Champions from Trafford, Bolton and more

### Imagine

#### Beyond the surface: What does community power really mean to you?

Community power and decision-making are increasingly finding their way into meeting agendas and organisational jargon. Live Well is describing community power as communities with agency, choice and control over their local areas and lives. But, what does community power really mean to you? Take a deep-dive into the topic of the day and explore this big question in a facilitated setting.

**Imagine with:** GM Systems Changers

### Get out and about

#### Take a walk through Manchester's radical history

There is a lot to learn from GM's history of community-led change. How can we build on the strengths of our past to create a future that works for us all?

**Get out and about with:** Manchester Free Walking Tours

## 12.30pm Live Well Community Marketplace

Eat lunch and continue to connect and learn

# Afternoon agenda

1.15pm **Explore what it takes to build the system conditions for community power to grow and sustain**

## Listen

**Towards a new narrative:** Placing young people at the centre of decision-making

Young people are facing increased challenges to stay healthy and well. NHS waiting lists, hate crime and violence, unemployment and the cost-of-living crisis are issues where young people are often bearing a particularly heavy weight. How can we frame a case for change to make young people's wellbeing everybody's business?

#BeeWell provides a collective narrative to addressing the challenges identified by young people and puts their voices at the heart of our work.

**Listen to:** A range of insights from young people and organisations connected to the Youth Alliance GM in how they are contributing to our #BeeWell ambition.

## Discuss

**Distributed leadership:** How place-based, community-led partnerships are paving the way to Age Well.

How can we support communities to Live Well in their neighbourhoods through all stages of life? The GM Ageing in Place Pathfinder Programme is working to make sure older people's voices are heard and valued in the places they live in. This includes setting up community-led, cross-sector partnerships that genuinely respond to older people's ambitions and needs - a core part of GM's Age-Friendly strategy.

Discuss with residents and local partners on engaging residents in creating spatial action plans that identify proactive and preventative responses to support older residents to Live Well in their communities.

**Discuss with:** GM Ageing in Place, Residents from Moorside, Bury, Inspiring Communities Together from Charlestown and Pendleton, Salford

## Explore

**Collective Accountability:** Through shared knowledge, data and insight

Knowledge and insight are key to our ability to act and have agency. Relevant and accessible data helps us to understand more about the places we live, its challenges, community strengths and assets. There is a wealth of knowledge and data openly available, however it is often difficult to access, interpret and use. How can data be used to empower and mobilise communities? And can communities become the creators and keepers of their own data that matters to them? Explore community-led approaches to data and evidence, drawing from programmes such as Our Streets Chorlton in Manchester, Right to the Streets in Trafford, Mapping Mobility and Walkable Malleswaram.

**Explore with:** Open Data Manchester, 10GM and GM Moving

## Co-create

**Shared power, authentic collaboration:** Taking the extra step

How far can we go in sharing power? In this session we'll be exploring creative, fun and emotionally charged experiences of real community-led power. Whether it's through Citizens' Assemblies, Participatory Budgeting or Legislative Theatre, within GM (and beyond) - we have seen how taking that extra step brings deeper change, leads to sustained impact and stronger and healthier communities.

Let's collectively move the dial beyond what has felt possible before! A seriously fun exploration of what sharing power really looks and feels like.

**Co-create with:** Katy Rubin (Legislative Theatre) and Jez Hall (Shared Future) and special guests.

## Imagine

**A new era of community-centred system leadership**

Leaders across sectors and communities are working hard to tackle health and wellbeing inequalities. However, they are frequently encountering common barriers, processes, and cultures that constrain community-led and collaborative ways of working. In this new era of community power, what are the questions leaders consider if they want to create the conditions for community power to grow and stick? This is a chance to explore what it takes to do this work and to build system conditions for everyone in GM to Live Well.

**Imagine with:** Good Lives GM as well as system and community leaders from across Stockport, Salford, Bolton and more.

## Get out and about

**Get outside and explore the relationship between people, place and participation**

There are lots of different ways to involve people in local decision-making and to grow community agency. Some of the best conversations happen when we get outside together. Explore local spaces and places and reflect together on our relationship with public space and opportunities to facilitate greater community say in place-making.

**Get out and about with:** GM Moving and Partners

**Have a break and build connections**

**Come back together and feel energised**

## Listen

**Performance from SAWN's choir**

**Hear more about creating lasting impact through community power**

## Listen

**Devolution, prevention and participation:** Where next for Live Well and community power in GM?

Devolving power to the city region provides an urgent opportunity to bring decisions much closer to the communities they affect.

Explore with us how we can seize this crucial moment. What might be the right mechanisms for sharing power into the heart of our localities and local neighbourhoods? How can we grow the role of community power to have a lasting impact on persistent inequalities and Live Well?

Collective sense making from the day with Open Data Manchester and GM Shapers.

Provocations from our communities and VCFSE.

Responses from our GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, CEO of GMCA, Caroline Simpson, CEO of NHS GM, Mark Fisher and locality leaders.

**This event is part of Live Well's ambition to work alongside community and system leaders from every locality to learn about what it takes to grow community power and decision making and make it stick. It has been developed with hundreds of people, community groups, and partners from across public services, in partnership with GM Networks Connect, bringing together a range of digital, food poverty, climate, and homelessness social justice and action networks across GM.**

Live Well is GM's movement for community-led health and wellbeing, supporting healthier, happier and fairer communities by growing opportunities for everyone to Live Well.

Live Well will tackle health and wellbeing inequalities by changing how we work with communities and in our systems, to grow community power, action and wealth.



More information is available on the [Fairer Health for All Academy](#) and [Live Well Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership](#)  
#GMLiveWell | [GMLiveWell@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:GMLiveWell@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)