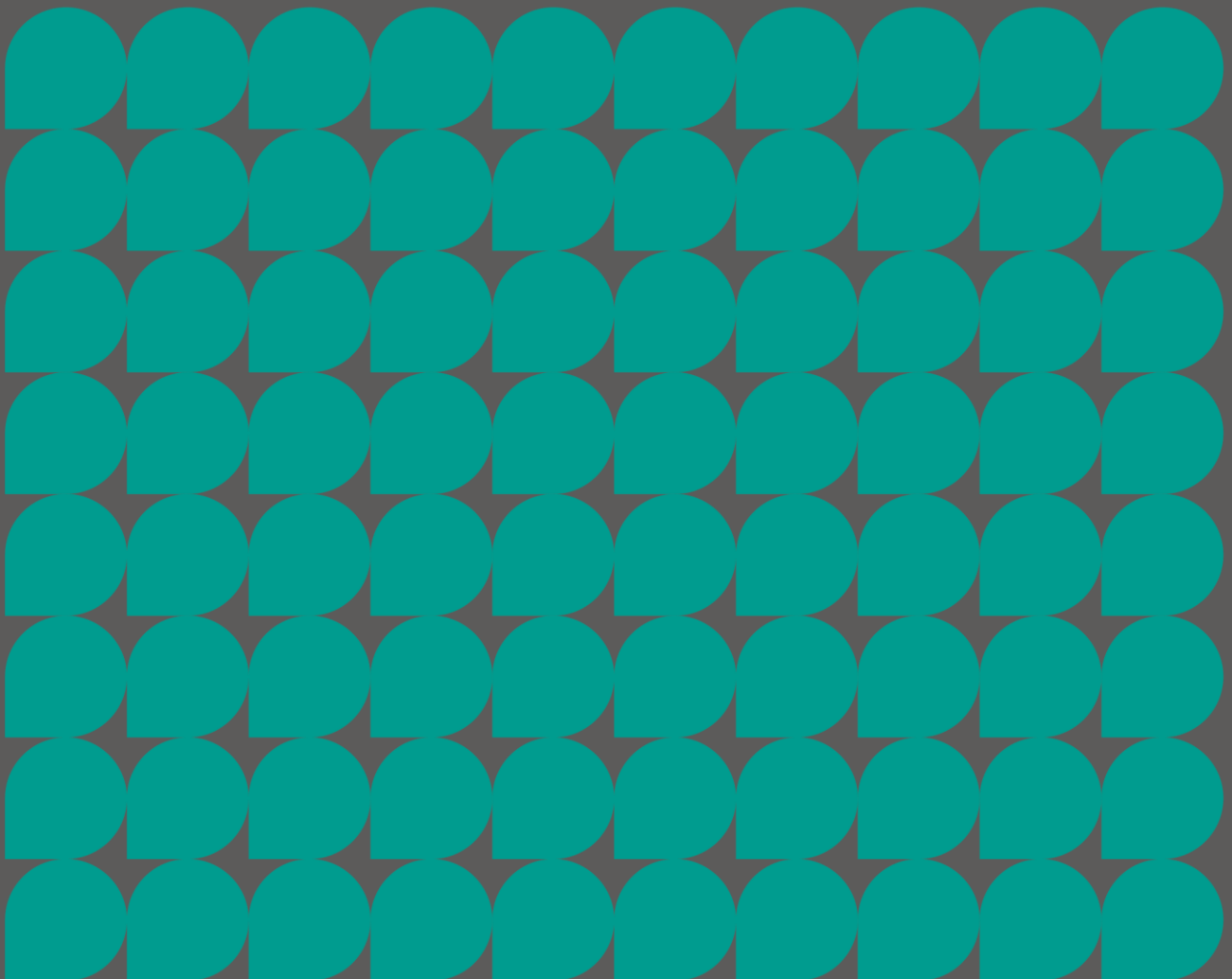


Greater Manchester Equality Panels

Quarterly update

October 2024



Introduction

The Equality Panels have been established to advise, support and challenge political leaders and policymakers to tackle the discrimination and disadvantage that cause injustice and inequality in society, and champion Greater Manchester as an inclusive city-region. For more information on the Equality Panels, including previous updates, please visit our [website](#).

Disabled People's Panel

In the last three months

The Panel have been working on our priorities: disabled people and work, poverty, social care and strengthening the Panel. There have been monthly Panel and Easy meetings, and also work on access and planning, transport, gender-based violence, elections and housing.

Highlights include:

The Panel have asked for the Equality Impact Assessment for the Government's upcoming budget. The Panel have also been working with the Women and Girl's Panel on the unequal impact of cuts to the Winter Fuel Payment. Our work with the Work Well team has led to the setting up of a national lived experience Panel. The Panel have reported back to Greater Manchester leads on newly identified benefit and poverty issues and responded to the Government's Personal Independence Payment Consultation.

In the next three months

The Panel will be working with the Integrated Care Board and Tackling Inequalities Board on the upcoming ADHD Pathways consultation, launching our Mental Health Well Being Grants, speaking with Just Fair at the Financial Resilience Group about ICESCR and disability rights and holding a Barriers to Employment Event. The Panel will also be working with the Older People's Panel on social care debt recommendations.

Faith and Belief Advisory Panel

In the last three months

The Panel have held two workshops: on Live Well and the role of Faith and Belief in community-led health and wellbeing, and with Transport for Greater Manchester seeking feedback on the Local Transport Plan. The Panel are also supporting a Campaign on Inclusion of Neurodivergent People Within Churches. In addition, panel members contributed to statements of solidarity and support in relation to the recent civil unrest.

Highlights include:

Turning the Faith, Belief and Interfaith Covenant into action including establishment of the Wigan Interfaith Forum and a new Trafford Faith Action Network, and development opportunities such as Interfaith Involvement in Community Resilience in Oldham.

In the next three months

Delivery of the Faith and Belief Panel Good Employment Week 'Fair Work is Good Work' event with Faith leaders and businesses. The Panel will also support an event on Preventing Homelessness and Supporting Migration on 23rd October. The Panel will also input into the Community Impact Statements to take stock of the recent civil unrest. The focus of the November Panel meeting will be on the Faith, Belief, and Interfaith Covenant 'in action' including a formal signing by the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

LGBTQ+ Equality Panel

In the last three months

This quarter has been busy for the Panel, working on the new Police and Crime Plan, including attending the engagement event at Manchester Cathedral, as well as planning our Good Employment Week session on LGBTQ+ inclusion in the workplace.

Highlights include:

The Panel have been recruiting, hosting open recruitment sessions to talk to people interested in becoming a panel member. This has resulted in nine new members, who will be joining the panel in December

In the next three months

The Panel has redeveloped its workgroups to align with the Mayor's manifesto pledges, who will be taking action on ending HIV transmission in Greater Manchester, ensuring LGBTQ+ inclusion in health and social care and developing an LGBTQ+ action plan for the city-region, engaging policymakers, stakeholders and the wider community.

Older People's Equality Panel

In the last three months

The August Panel meeting focused on Care Settings. In addition, the Panel was represented at seven other meetings relating to a range of issues including: Ageing in Place, improving representation for racially minoritised older people, and age inclusivity in the workplace. The Panel continues to widen its networks and connections to increase the diversity of older people voices.

Highlights include:

Panel members met with Diane Turner, New Zealand Office for Seniors, sharing experiences of developing influence and impact of lived experience groups. In addition, the Panel collaborated with the Disabled People's Panel to present at the Greater Manchester Cost of Living Response Group on the impact of people having to choose between debt and receiving appropriate levels of home care.

In the next three months

The Panel will continue to gather lived experience of appropriate support to arrange and manage home care packages. The Panel will be hosting an event as part of Good Employment Week – Embracing Age Inclusivity in the Workplace, collating an

outcomes report to share with relevant organisations. The focus of the panel meeting in October will be the impact and perception of crime for Older People

Race Equality Panel

In the last three months

The Panel have regained focus and clarified their purpose, with each thematic lead producing statements of purpose for their respective thematic areas. Co-chairs have started to formulate their sub-groups' objectives, contributing to the formation of the Panel's collective identity. Panel members have attended the Police and Crime Plan engagement event, connecting with Greater Manchester Police and other system influencers, and several in-person community based events including the Civic launch of Black History Month

Highlights include:

The Panel issued a statement following civil unrest and ongoing race-related riots, followed up by an in-person meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester to champion priorities and establish methods of accountability. In addition, the Panel have been strengthening our relationship with BNY, a top 10 Greater Manchester employer and who have selected the city region as a strategic growth location, collaborating with their IMPACT Staff Race Equity Network, including hosting the Panel's September meeting at their offices.

In the next three months

The Panel will deliver a Race Equity event for Good Employment Week, continue to support finalisation of the Greater Manchester #BEEquality Framework, and contribute to the consultation on the Local Transport Plan.

Women and Girls Equality Panel

In the last three months

The Panel has embraced a challenging period navigating important discussions. These conversations have tested our ability to engage in open debate on complex

issues. In response, the Panel are taking active steps to create a psychologically safe space that allows for transparent debates.

Highlights include:

Providing neurodiversity training for Panel members from Autism Uncovered. A panel member has partnered with the Greater Manchester Apprenticeship and Careers Service to write a 'Rights in the Workplace' article for young people. The Violence Against Women and Girls working group reviewed the Baird Review recommendations with GMCA's Victims and Vulnerability Principal and have collaborated with the creative agency behind the next phase of the #IsThisOkay Campaign. In addition, the Panel have been preparing for their engagement session during Good Employment Week on health and wellbeing across a woman's life course in the workplace.

In the next three months

The Panel will host another engagement session with Transport for Greater Manchester to contribute to Phase 2 of updating the Local Transport Plan for Greater Manchester, continue contributing to the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan and hold our annual meeting with Andy Burnham.

Youth Combined Authority

In the last three months

The YCA have explored Our Pass and its integration into the Bee Network app and discussed the refresh of the Hate Crime Plan. The YCA have also elected an internal YCA Leadership Team to lead on planning and delivering future meetings. The Leadership Team have met together to plan out their focus for the term ahead in line with the YCA vision.

Highlights include:

The YCA met with the Mayor of Greater Manchester in their September meeting, hosting a question-and-answer session on key topics from the group such as Our

Pass, social media and MBacc. It was great to hear from the Mayor at this early stage of the YCA term, and to hear about his priorities that the YCA can align to.

In the next three months

The Leadership Team have planned a session for Good Employment Week in October with employers from different sectors joining, and in November the group will be exploring the Police and Crime plan as well as a pilot project from Talk, Listen, Change focused on Violence against Women and Girls

Greater Manchester Equality Alliance

In the last three months

The Alliance have contributed insight into the refresh of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Plan and held a Good Employment Week themed meeting, exploring intersectionality in the workplace

Highlights include:

Publishing our latest Inclusive Language guide on social class and starting work with colleagues from the Safer and Stronger Communities Team on Improving Police Custody.

In the next three months

The Alliance will start to disseminate and embed the 'lived experience in policy making' guidance with our Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Accord partners. There will also be sessions on 'Improving Police Custody' and Housing First, with the Mayor of Greater Manchester