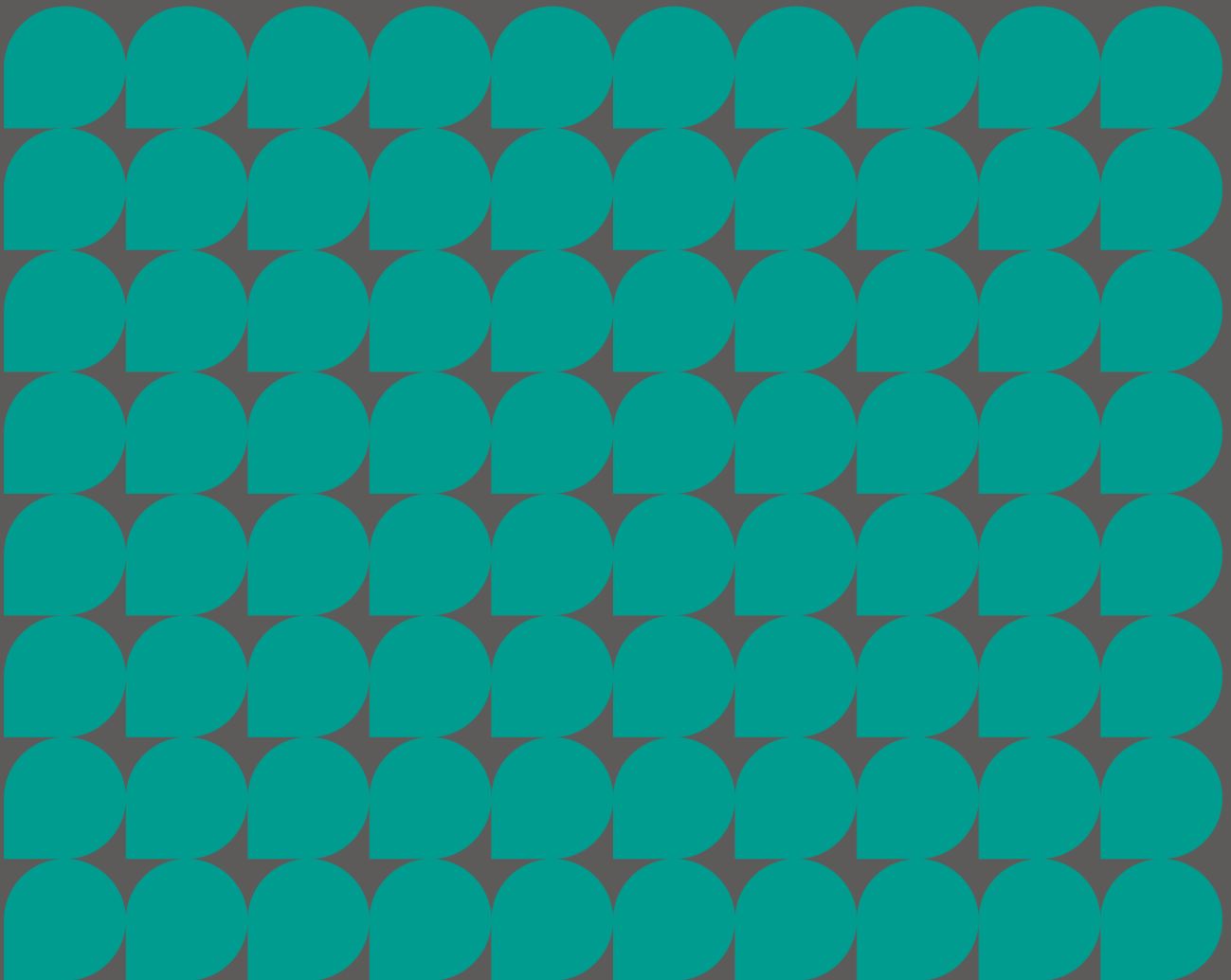


Greater Manchester Equality Panels

Quarterly update

January 2025



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 has been working on our priorities: disabled people and work, poverty, social care and strengthening the Panel, through monthly Panel and Easy meetings. The Panel have also been working on access and planning, mental health grants, transport and gender-based violence.

Highlights include:

On 3 December, International Disabled People's Day, the Mayor of Greater Manchester attended our meeting and agreed to work together on the Government's Green Paper on Disability Benefits, Access to Work, Social Care Commission and Live Well. The Panel have also advised the Minister for Disabled People on best practice for a proposed national Disability Employment Panel and presented our experiences and recommendations on Social Care Debt to the Live Well Financial Resilience Group and NHS Tackling Poverty Group. In addition, in Good Employment Week, the Panel held a successful Barriers to Employment event and presented these challenges at the Tackling Inequalities Board.

Over the next three months

The Panel will, together with GMCA, be speaking to Energy UK on tackling disability energy poverty. The Panel will also be planning our work programme for the year and moving forward on barriers to employment and the Social Care Commission.

Faith and Belief Advisory Panel

In the last three months

The Panel held a successful Good Employment Week event with Faith leaders and local businesses, and joined an event on how the Faith sector can prevent homelessness and support migration. In November, the Mayor of Greater Manchester and Cllr Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities and Communities, attended the Panel to hear the impact being made in communities through delivery of the Faith, Belief and Interfaith Covenant.

Highlights include:

In addition to the formal signing of the Covenant, the Panel, Mayor and Portfolio Lead agreed actions on Live Well, response to the summer riots, support for people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants facing barriers to mainstream services and further progressing the development of strong local interfaith networks in each of the ten Greater Manchester boroughs.

Over the next three months

The Panel will progress these actions, supporting the emerging Greater Manchester Community Cohesion Plan and implementing this through the development of local Interfaith Networks.

LGBTQ+ Equality Panel

In the last three months

The Panel has onboarded ten new members and with them redeveloped work plans for commencement in January. We have also expanded our fortnightly panel update to policymakers across GMCA, and welcome anyone who is interested in these updates to get in touch to be added to the list.

Highlights include:

Our December panel meeting was an opportunity for our new members to get to know each other and take part in our winter end-of-year quiz! We have also recruited a part-time officer to help facilitate panel activities, which will greatly increase capacity in the team.

Over the next three months

The panel will begin the implementation of our 2025 work plans, which will tackle:

- Ending HIV transmission in Greater Manchester
- Ensuring LGBTQ+ inclusion in health and social care
- Refreshing the Greater Manchester LGBTQ+ action plan

Older People's Equality Panel

In the last three months

The Panel has focused on two areas; crime that targets older people and how it is addressed within the new Police and Crime Plan, and Pensioner Poverty with panel members collating a contribution for the Ageing Hub's submission of evidence to the Parliamentary Works and Pensions Select Committee. The Panel has also contributed to a range of other policy sessions, including financial hardship for older people, adult social care and digital inclusion.

Highlights include:

Panel members attended an event marking International Day of Older People at Ridge Hill, Tameside, which highlighted the impressive work of the community led group - Ridge Hill Together - set up as part of the Ageing in Place Pathfinder programme. In addition, as part of Good Employment Week, the panel hosted a successful workshop exploring the issue of Age Inclusivity in the Workplace.

Over the next three months

The focus will be financial hardship and the panel will work with organisations and stakeholders to highlight the groups most at risk and support ways to reduce impact.

Race Equality Panel

In the last three months

The Panel hosted a full-day event as part of Good Employment Week, focusing on race equity in the workplace. Panel representatives also engaged with a wider range of events across Black History Month, as well as engagement in events relevant to the Panels other priorities, crime and policing, housing and mental health.

Highlights include:

In addition to strengthening our relationship with Kate Green, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester for Safer and Stronger Communities and senior officers at Greater Manchester Police and GMCA, in November the Panel welcomed the Mayor of Greater Manchester to our meeting, with a round-table discussion on our key priorities and an invitation extended for future engagement.

Over the next three months

With a focus on actions and accountability, the Panel will focus on the evaluation and monitoring of work on our priority areas and identify opportunities to work in collaboration with other Equality Panels.

Women and Girls Equality Panel

In the last three months

The Panel carried out a public engagement session during Good Employment Week on health and wellbeing across a woman's life course in the workplace, creating a set of recommendations for the refresh of the Good Employment Charter.

Highlights include:

In November, the Panel met with the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham and received a positive response to our three 'asks' of:

- A commitment to a firewall between Greater Manchester Police and immigration enforcement to enable safer reporting of domestic violence.
- Continued engagement with the Equality Panels to ensure the Good Employment Charter is an effective tool in improving employment conditions.
- GMCA support and resource trialling gender mainstreaming in the development of MBacc.

Over the next three months

The Panel will be holding a Strategy Day to develop our 2025 work plan and working groups. This will inform training and development for panel members. In addition, a blog will be published on www.curriculumforlifegm.co.uk by one of our members on Knowing Your Rights in the Workplace.

Youth Combined Authority

In the last three months

In October, the Youth Combined Authority (YCA) held a session with employers from different sectors during Good Employment Week, and in November discussed the new Police and Crime Plan as well as a pilot project from Talk, Listen, Change focused on Violence against Women and Girls.

Highlights include:

The Leadership Team have looked at how the YCA engages with external guests using the Lundy Model of participation to ensure young people's voices are responded to in decision making.

Over the next three months

The YCA will be hosting members of the Greater Manchester Children's Board in February to showcase our work and discuss how both groups can work together, and then with the Deputy Mayor in March to explore Child-Centred Policing.