



# Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel **Our first year**





## History of the Panel

In 2016, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People and other groups made a list of important things that would make things better for disabled people in Greater Manchester.



This was our **Manifesto**.

Andy Burnham was elected to be the first Mayor of Greater Manchester.

It was agreed to start a Disabled People Panel to advise him about disability.



The Mayor has set up other Panels of people to advise him about different things such as Business, LGBT, Police and Crime.

The Panels are made up of people who know a lot about the subject.



## What disabled people said the Panel should do

- The people on the Panel should be from disabled people's organisations from all parts of Greater Manchester.
- Help the Greater Manchester Strategy to work by making sure disabled people's voices are heard.
- Tell the Mayor and the GMCA Portfolio Lead for Equalities, Fairness and Inclusion, about the big issues and help them find solutions.
- Use the skills people from groups know about different impairments.
- Work in an open way.
- Believe in a society where disabled people take a full and equal part.
- Make things better for all disabled people in Greater Manchester, no matter their gender, race, ethnicity, faith, sexual identity or age.
- Follow the Social Model of Disability.





## How the Panel was set up

GMCDP was asked to set up the Panel.

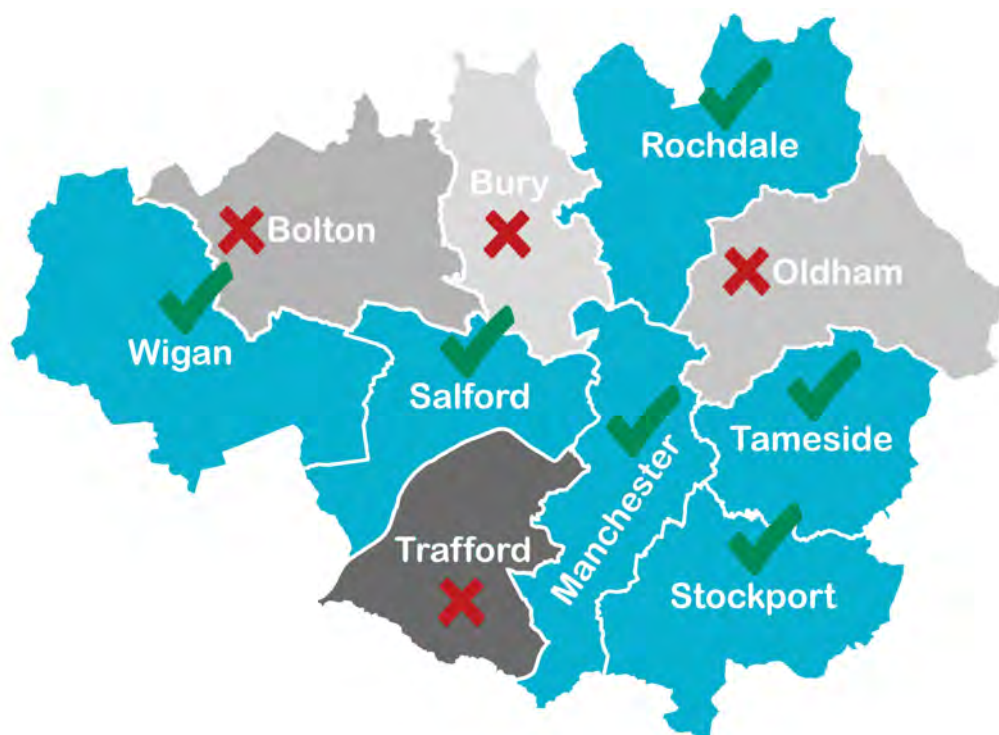
Greater Manchester Combined Authority agreed to pay for it.

14 different Disabled People’s Organisations were picked to be members of the Panel.



We wanted representatives from all 10 areas of Greater Manchester.

We still need to get members from Bolton, Bury, Oldham and Trafford.



We hired 2 members of staff:

- Rick Burgess
- Jane Bevan

Anne Lythgoe, who works for GMCA, also helps us by organising meetings between the Panel and people who make decisions.

The Panel held our first meeting on 20 June 2019.





## **How the Panel works**

We meet once a month.

We have 2 'Co-Chairs' this helps share the work. This make things fairer and stops one person having too much power and making all the decisions.

Our Co-Chairs are:

- Michelle Scattergood, of Breakthrough UK
- John Kenny, from Disability Stockport



We try to make our meetings accessible. We use British Sign Language Interpreters and put information in different formats.



## **What the Panel does**

We invite important people to the meeting to talk about how things can be made better for disabled people.

The Panel also has **Associate Members** they do not come to the meetings, but get sent information about what we are doing.



In between meetings, Panel members and our 2 staff go to lots of different events and meetings. This helps us know what is going on and lets other people know about the new Disabled People's Panel.



We work with other Panels. Other groups of people can have similar problems, so it is good to share information and learn from each other.



## **Problems we looked at**

- Employment
- Disability Hate Crime
- Buses and transport
- Changes to benefits
- The built environment

## **Things that we think are important**

- Transport and public spaces
- Being equal and the same in all areas
- Housing that is accessible
- Work placements that are right
- Advice and information being accessible
- Independent Living







## What we want to happen

- We want to be involved in plans as soon as they start, not at the end.
- We want people in charge to give disabled people time to understand new policy.
- We want important people to have training about working with disabled people.





## Our first year

We met in January 2020, to see how the Panel was working and what changes the Staff could make to make it work better.



## What went well

- Disabled People's Organisations working together and sharing information.
- Meeting important people, telling them how to make life better for disabled people.
- Having a meeting every month.
- Making everything accessible for all. It shows others it can be done.
- Having 2 staff members. Both are good at their jobs. Jane working at GMCA made the other people there talk to the Panel.
- The way members joined went well.
- The hard work GMCDP and the other organisations did to get the Panel started.



## **What we should do to be better**

- Work more on things we think are important.
- Sometimes we give more time to things GMCA want to talk about.
- Keep a record of the work we do.
- Go on training.
- Get better known.
- Should be Disabled People's Organisations in the areas of Greater Manchester where they are not any at the moment.
- Work with other Disabled People's Organisations, not just the ones on the Panel.





### **Feedback from partners**

We asked people who had come to our meetings to tell us what they liked and did not like about the Panel.



Some people did not know about the Panel, or what it did. This was the main thing people said we should try to change.

Most people said the Panel had had a big impact on them and the way they work.

Most people said that by working with the Panel they knew more about the Social Model of Disability and the issues disabled people face.



### **Impact we have had**

It can be hard to show how much influence we have had. But here are some examples:

Our Staff (Rick and Jane) began meeting with the staff from other Panels.

This helps everyone to share information and good ideas.



After a meeting, the Greater Manchester Hate Crime Survey is now available in easy read format.



The Panel asked the Mayor to ask the BBC to change their mind and keep the 'Red Button' service.



### Other good things we have done

All the organisations on the Panel now know what each other do. They have visited each other and work together and share information.



We have made more people aware of why Disabled People's Organisations are important.

All the members of the Panel are disabled people. This is the first time there has been a group of disabled people who talk with the important people who make decisions.



## Recommendations

For the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the 10 local Councils



The Panel recommends that more work is done to reach these goals:



- When decisions are being made, the Panel should be involved at the start, not the end.



- There should be enough time for the Panel to give their input.



- People who make important decisions should have training in the Social Model of Disability.



## What we want to do next

The Panel wants to help make Greater Manchester the best place for disabled people to live. To do this, from April 2020 to March 2021, we will:

- Run training for the Panel.
- Get more people to know about us and the work we do.
- Carry on working with other Panels.
- Get more associate members.
- Make some statements about the main issues. We should include the Panel's recommendations with them.



# More information

- **Member organisations of the Panel**
- **Associate members of the Panel**
- **The Social Model of Disability**

## Member organisations of the Greater Manchester Disability Panel



Breakthrough UK

<https://www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk>



Disability Stockport

<http://disabilitystockport.co.uk>



Embrace Wigan & Leigh (co-opted)

[www.embracewiganandleigh.org.uk](http://www.embracewiganandleigh.org.uk)



GM Autism Consortium

<https://www.autismgm.org.uk>



Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People

<https://gmcdp.com>



Manchester Deaf Centre

[www.manchesterdeafcentre.com](http://www.manchesterdeafcentre.com)



Manchester Disabled People's Access Group

[www.mdpag.org.uk](http://www.mdpag.org.uk)



Manchester People First

[www.manpf.org](http://www.manpf.org)



Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts

<https://dpac.uk.net>



National Federation of the Blind of the UK

<https://www.nfbuk.org>



Rochdale and District Disability Action Group

[www.raddag.org](http://www.raddag.org)



Salford Disability Forum

<https://www.salforddisabilityforum.com>



People First Tameside

[www.peoplefirsttameside.org](http://www.peoplefirsttameside.org)

The University  
of Manchester



University of Manchester Disabled Staff Group

<https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/equality-and-diversity/staff-network/disabled-staff-network-group>



## **Associate Member organisations of the Greater Manchester Disability Panel**



**Action Together**

<https://www.actiontogether.org.uk>



**Activity Alliance**

[www.activityalliance.org.uk](http://www.activityalliance.org.uk)



**Better Things**

<https://wearebetterthings.wixsite.com/better-things>

**Beyond Empower**

<https://beyondempower.co.uk>



**Bury Society for Blind and Partially Sighted People**

<https://www.buryblindsociety.org>



Bury U3A

<https://www.buryu3a.org.uk>



Change



Communic8te Bury

[www.communic8tebury.co.uk](http://www.communic8tebury.co.uk)



Healthwatch Trafford

<https://healthwatchtrafford.co.uk>

Louie Hamblett  
(Oldham Council)



Lifeshare

<https://www.lifeshare.org.uk>



Maddchester

[www.maddchester.com](http://www.maddchester.com)



Pegasus Riding

[www.pegasustr.org](http://www.pegasustr.org)



Proud and Loud Arts

[www.proudandloudarts.com](http://www.proudandloudarts.com)



Rochdale Parent Carer's Voice

[www.rochdaleparentcarersvoice.co.uk](http://www.rochdaleparentcarersvoice.co.uk)



Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)

<https://www.rnib.org.uk>



Seashell

[www.seashelltrust.org.uk](http://www.seashelltrust.org.uk)



Tameside Autism Group

[www.tameside-autism-community.org.uk](http://www.tameside-autism-community.org.uk)



Trafford Hard of Hearing

<https://www.traffordhardofhearing.group>

## **Our guide to the Social Model of Disability**

The Social Model of Disability looks at how the way society is organised puts barriers in the way of disabled people and causes them problems.

If things were organised differently, disabled people would not have these barriers and problems.



### **Barriers can be physical**

If a building had steps someone who used a wheelchair might not be able to get into it. But if there was a ramp, they could.



### **Barriers can be organisational**

A hospital might send out letters for eye appointments, but they are in standard print size. This might be too small for someone with limited vision to read. But it might not be a problem if the hospital put letters in large print, or phoned people to make appointments.



## Barriers can be about attitude

Some people may think of disabled people in a negative way, such as not having ability or having low intelligence. They may not respect disabled people or not treat them equally. They may talk over them, or to Personal Assistants instead of the person.

## Impairment and disability

These do not mean the same thing.

- Impairment is when a person's body, mind or emotions work in a different way to what society thinks is 'normal'.
- Disability is the barriers, discrimination and prejudice people face. So, it is not the body and mind of a disabled person which 'disables' a person, it is society.

## The Medical Model of Disability

Looks at a disabled person's impairment as being what puts barriers in their way.

This means that it looks at 'cures' instead of changing how society is organised.



# Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel



## Contact details

### Staff

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- Rick Burgess Outreach and Development Lead



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GMCDP general phone line (This will not take you directly to the Disabled People's Panel):

0161 636 7534



[www.gmcdp.com](http://www.gmcdp.com)