



# Disabled People's Panel

**Doing things differently  
for Greater Manchester**

**Year 5 Report**



# 2023 to 2024

**Nothing About Us  
Without Us**



***Disabled people demanding their  
rights and inclusion in society***



# Introduction



## About the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel



The Panel is made up of 17 different Disabled People's Organisations from all over Greater Manchester. It is run by Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People.



A Disabled People's Organisation is a group that is mostly run by disabled people.



Embrace Wigan & Leigh



GM Autism Consortium Advisory Committee



George House Trust Manchester Deaf Centre



Manchester Disabled People's Access Group



Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts



Mental Health Independent Support Team



Manchester People First



People First Tameside



Salford Disability Forum



Stand Up Sisters



Rochdale & District Disability Action Group

## What we did



The Panel met every month and also had 'easy' meetings, which are more informal. The main things we looked at were:



- Welfare benefits
- Built environment and the night time economy (pubs, clubs etc.)



- Photo ID being needed to vote
- GM Good Landlord's Charter
- Housing



- Accessible information
- Transport



- Greater Manchester's response to the Panel's Big Disability Survey.



We worked with council officers about problems including:

- Debt
- Benefits
- Social Care
- Transport



We finished our project on advice services for disabled people funded by British Gas Energy Trust.



We worked with GMCA to see if information on the GM Elects website met the needs of disabled people.

Manchester Disabled People's Access Group produced a guide for us on how to lobby local councils about wheelchair access.

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People used our Survey to show issues in Greater Manchester.



We gave disabled people the chance to have their say in local and national consultations. We met regularly with the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

## What we did



- The Panel agreed to work with Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester on how disabled can be better supported.

- The Panel's Co-Chair spoke at the November 2023 meeting of Greater Manchester Combined Authority.



- We helped stop the plans to close railway station ticket offices.

- We held the National Disabled People's Organisation Conference at the People's History Museum.



- Textline for deaf and hearing impaired people was taken up by all 10 councils in Greater Manchester.

- We were contacted by the media and politicians and government departments for information about disabled people.





Members of the Panel went to meetings of other groups, such as:

- GM Cost of Living Response Group
- Mayor's Energy Providers Working Group
- Digital Inclusion Action Network, we co-produced a booklet to help disabled people get online.
- GM Hate Crime Partnership
- Government's Disability Unit
- Minister for Disabled People
- Greater Manchester Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
- Disabled People's Organisations Forum England





- Our project with the British Gas Energy Trust led to extra funding for advice for disabled people at Greater Manchester Law Centre.



- We helped local and national rules about care charging, and rules aimed at stopping abuse.

- We went to the GM Networks Connect Events that combined Social and Climate Justice.



- We gave information to the UK Covid Inquiry.



- We talked to other groups such as Disability Cornwall about Disabled People's Organisations using our Big Survey format.



- And finally one of our co-chairs, Sara Crookdake was awarded an MBE medal!

## Plans for 2024 and 2025



There are so many problems facing disabled people, the Disabled People's Panel cannot deal with them all. So we have agreed that in 2024 and 2025 we will focus on:



1. Disabled People and Work
2. Poverty
3. Social Care
4. Strengthening the Panel



We call this our 'Workplan'.



There will be a General Election.

A new government may do things differently, so we will look at our Workplan after the Election to see if it needs to change.



If there were more funding we might be able to look at other important areas such as:

- Devolution of Benefits
- Access to Health Care
- Education
- Housing and the Built Environment
- Elections and Taking Part in Politics
- Work with Great British Railways
- Domestic Abuse and Disabled People
- Know Your Rights Event



## How the Panel works

The Panel had 3 Co-Chairs:

- Sara Crookdake from Disability Stockport
- Chris Hamnett from Embrace Wigan and Leigh
- Melvin Bradley from the Mental Health Independent Support Team

The Panel has a Steering Group which meets every week. This is made up of:

- The 3 Co-Chairs
- 2 Panel Officers
- Officers from GMCA

## Payments



We pay £800 a year to each organisation that is a member of the Panel. This helps cover their costs for the extra work they do.

We also pay for access needs and having information in accessible formats.



The Co-Chairs are paid £500 a year for the extra work they do.

This is one way we show how we value disabled people's lived experience.

We have a wider network of people and groups who do not come to meetings, but we share information with.

We work from the Social Model of Disability.

## Thanks



We would like to offer a special thank you to our outgoing Co-Chair Sara Crookdake of Disability Stockport.

Thank you to the Mayor of Greater Manchester, his office, and Greater Manchester Combined Authority and its officers for their ongoing support.

Special thanks to Mahmuda, Elaine, Adrian, Rachel, Halima, Ellen and Anne at the GMCA.



## Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel



- Jane Bevan Strategic Lead
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