

Day in the Life - An insight into the lives of a Community First panel member

Pauline Sergeant - Gorton South Community First panel member

Tell us about a typical day for you

I wake up around 7am on a typical day and have breakfast and plan my day as I mostly have meetings at 9am at a local school where I am a school governor. The meetings could be about a dispute, discussing school budgets or training for school staff.

I am a member of the Manchester Valuing Older People Board (VOP/ Age Friendly Manchester Board) and in the afternoon I attend regular meetings or I visit Manchester History Museum or the Royal Exchange Theatre as part of my work as a Culture Champion, where I engage in various community activities.

In the evening I attended my local choir, the Levy Chorus, for a rehearsal for our next up and coming Performance.

After the evening events, I head home to do housework but often decide it can wait until another day...

Tell us about being on a Community First panel

One of the things I most enjoy about being on the panel is that it brings local people together to discuss what is happening in their local neighbourhood. It has injected vitality into existing groups enabling development of their projects. This can lead to less isolation of local people as there are more things to go and do and helps groups work together with each other.

Community First panel meetings are normally held every few months on a Monday evening at 5.30pm at the Inspire Centre. When I attend a Community First meeting, we as panel members usually receive the applications for funding a week before the meeting to prepare our feedback. If I am unable to make the meeting I will make sure I forward my feedback and recommendations to the panel for my views to be included in the discussion.

I thoroughly enjoy being part of the Gorton South Community Panel. I'm honoured and very proud to be involved in making decisions about how this vital funding is allocated in the local area. Through these projects, panel members become aware of what's happening locally and are able to network with existing projects to arrange events such as community days. By volunteering for the panel it feels like I am making a difference for the local community in Gorton South.



Tell us about any of the projects that have been funded by the Gorton South Community First panel that most inspire you

I don't have a favourite project as I'm supportive of all projects the panel awards funding to because they have all made a real difference to people's welfare and wellbeing. I do like the fact that the panel funds a range of different projects.