

Greater Manchester Older People's Network **Newsletter**

July 2019

Updates from the Network

Ageing Better conference 2019

This week the GMOPN project team, 5 members of the Action Group and 3 members of the Equalities Board travelled to Sheffield to attend the Ageing Better conference. Our workshop on older people's voice was really well attended and we received great feedback! It was a great conference and we loved having the opportunity to hear about all the fantastic work that is happening across the country and to share ideas with other Ageing Better programmes. Thank you to Age Better in Sheffield for organising a great event!



Volunteers' Week 2019

Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration that takes place between 1-7 June to show appreciation for volunteers and the work that they do. This year, we used the opportunity to thank our fantastic Action Group members for all of the hard work that they do in leading the work of the Greater Manchester Older People's Network. We gave all of our Action Group members a certificate signed by the Lord Mayor of Manchester as a thank you for their contribution and dedication to the network. Here is a picture of some of our fabulous members with their certificates!





The GMOPN appears in the news!

Economy, which is a charity that wants to change the way we talk about the things that matter, came to the GMOPN to deliver a workshop aimed at busting the jargon around the economy and making economics more accessible. Some of their responses have been published in a supplement that appeared in the Manchester Evening News on Tuesday 9 July 2019.

We want to hear from you!

Is there something that is affecting older people in your neighbourhood that you would like us to write about in our next newsletter? Or is there an issue that you think the GM Older People's Network should be campaigning about?

Contact us to let us know on 0161 834 9823 or email GMOPN@macc.org.uk

News from Ambition for Ageing

The Age-Friendly Challenge: Neighbourhoods Launch

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has issued the second round of his Age-Friendly Challenge: Neighbourhoods to make Greater Manchester the best place in the UK to grow older. Greater Manchester is already the UK's first age-friendly city-region according to the World Health Organization. Great news! But what does that look like in reality? Through the mayor's age-friendly challenge, we'll find practical examples of what age-friendly really means and share best practice across the city region. Successful areas will be awarded with accreditation - official recognition from the Mayor and Combined Authority that your neighbourhood is age-friendly.

For more information email ambition@gmcvo.org.uk or telephone 0161 277 1001.

Our Members' Journey

This month we have a post from Action Group member Jan Kitching about the first steps in setting up an Older People's Network in Stockport.

An Older People's Network in Stockport

Stockport Council already embraces age-friendly planning in this diverse borough to the South East, which is home to the highest percentage of over 65s in Greater Manchester.

I am privileged to be supporting Stockport Age Friendly Board on building and maintaining a fully inclusive network for older people, bringing together people from across all backgrounds and circumstances, enabling and encouraging them to play the role they wish in their community, and to ensure their voices are listened to in the development of local services, plans and policies and in all areas of life.

We are in the early stages of agreeing who and how we will make it happen, learning from the journey of Manchester Age-Friendly Assembly. Of course, we will continue to be closely linked with the GMOPN!

Events and participation opportunities

BBC Programme - GMOPN representatives wanted

BBC Studios are currently making a brand new programme for BBC Daytime on the Criminal Justice System. They are looking for representatives from the GMOPN who would like to take part in a discussion about the Criminal Justice System. They have two opposing viewpoints from their presenters. One believes that we should lock more people up and have harsher sentencing. The other believes that we should look at the bigger picture, offer education, better housing and resources. They are looking to speak with people who have a viewpoint on the criminal justice system. Filming for this will take place one day during the last week of August. **For more information please contact Liz or Victoria on 0161 834 9823 or email GMOPN@macc.org.uk**



The Golden Years Caravan

Art with Heart invites you aboard The Golden Years Caravan; a roving cinema and art gallery featuring a series of ambitious artworks which confront common perceptions of ageing and retirement. Tired of the media's portrayal of grumpy Grandad's, passive pensioners and senile seniors, Art with Heart set about challenging the ageing conversation by creating a space to share the voices and talents of older people in their local community. The caravan will tour to every district of Greater Manchester from 8 - 21 July.

For more information please visit <http://www.artwithheart.org.uk/portfolio/golden-years-caravan/> or contact Liz or Victoria on 0161 834 9823



Age-Friendly Enterprise Workshop

24 July 2019, 10:00am - 2:00pm

Westcroft Community Centre, 24/26 Westcroft Road, Burnage, Manchester, M20 6EF

Are you over 50, living in South Manchester and want to explore self-employment? Come along to this free workshop to discuss the possibility of becoming self-employed or starting a business. Discuss your ideas and ambition in a friendly environment; develop a business plan; learn what support is available. There will be ongoing support with business mentors. **For more information please telephone 0161 507 6366 or email enterprise@peopleplus.co.uk**

James Thomas Blair Charity—Grants to support older people

The purpose of the James Thomas Blair Charity is to provide support to older people living in Manchester or Salford. The support may be of a financial, social or medical nature. Any registered charities or voluntary organisations providing assistance to older people who live within the 32 wards of Manchester or 20 wards of Salford are eligible to apply.

For further information telephone 01204 414 317.