

Designing homes and communities that reduce isolation and build connection

Developing enduring partnerships in place with older people: our experiences in Greater Manchester

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together
we are

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Bolton
Bury
Manchester
Oldham
Rochdale

Salford
Stockport
Tameside
Trafford
Wigan

Greater Manchester: Live Well in Later Life

- GM Ageing Hub established in 2016.
- GM Older People's Network and Mayoral Older People's Equality Panel.
- GM Age-friendly Strategy, 2024-34:
 - Economy, work and money
 - Places
 - Ageing Well
 - Working Together
- GM Housing, Planning and Ageing Group.
- 3-year, £4 million investment in Ageing in Place Pathfinder (2022-25).
- Policy, practice and learning growing and spreading through the Live Well in Later Life Blueprint.

#LiveWellLaterLife



together we are **GREATER MANCHESTER**

Ridge Hill: community-led approach to health & wellbeing

- Ridge Hill, Tameside
- Anchored by Jigsaw Housing
- Impact of topography
- Extensive engagement
- Creativity was key
- What matters to residents:
 - Community cohesion & connection
 - Community health and wellbeing - skills, physical activity, awareness
 - Reducing digital divide
 - Enhance local services to provide wrap-around support

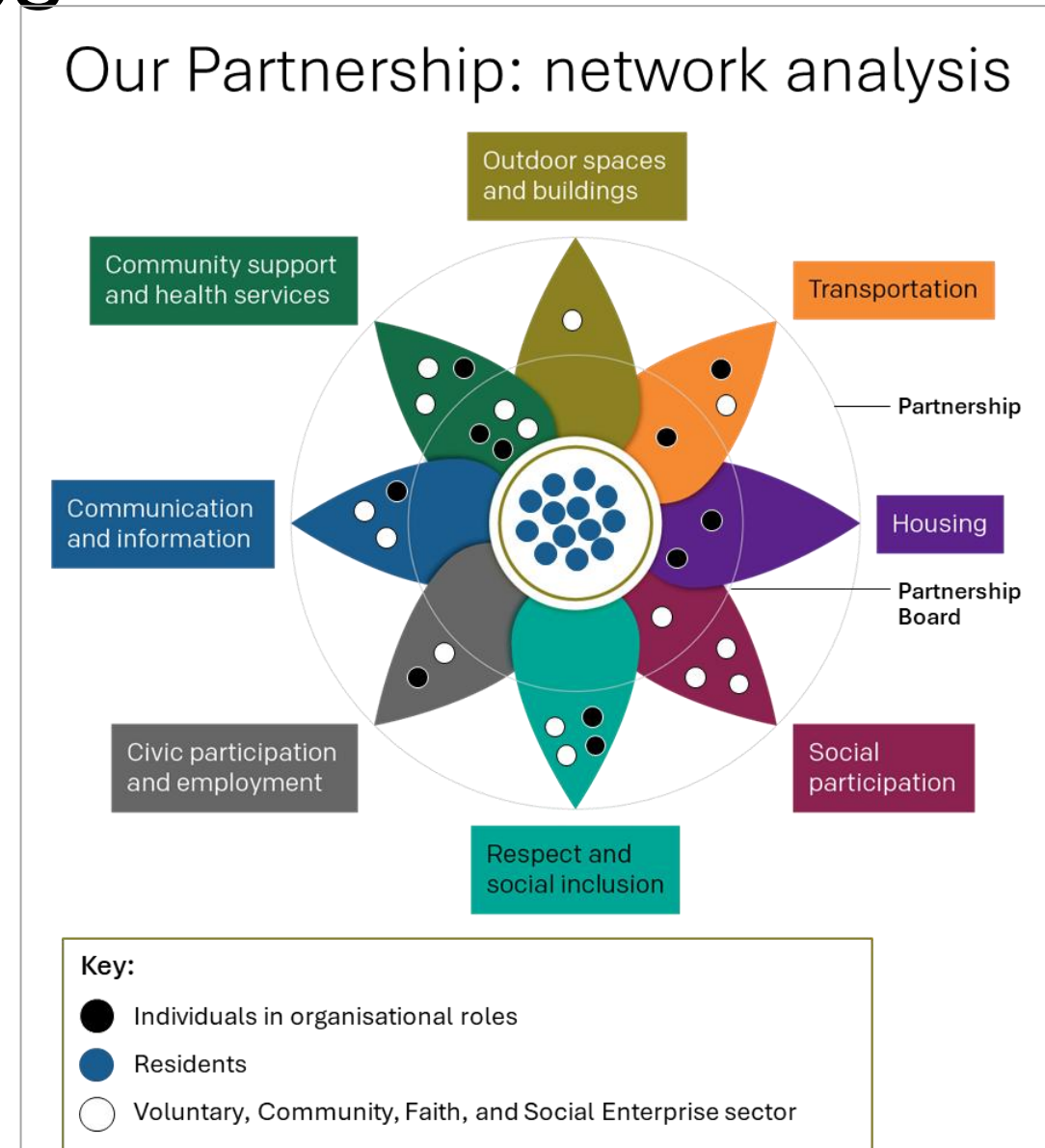
[Watch our film on the community-led approach.](#)



Impact: enduring partnerships

“partnerships developed between older residents and local organisations at meaningful scale can create sustainable solutions that address barriers to health and wellbeing experienced by older people.”

(MMU evaluation)



Example 2: Hopton Court, Hulme

Nine storey tower block built in 1960s, approx. 2 miles from Manchester City Centre

Designed as general needs housing, but now 75% of residents aged over 55

Significant social, economic and health inequalities

Changing neighbourhood – gentrification, studentification, loss of social spaces for older people.





Man Met

RNCM

UoM

Hopton
Court

Trinity High School

 = University Building or
Halls of Residence

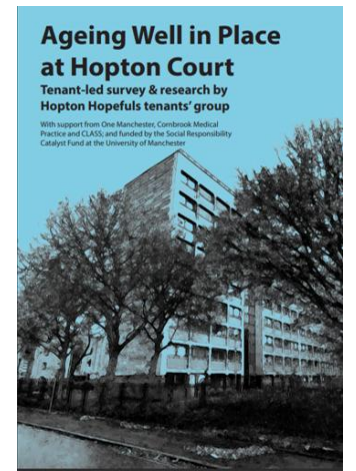
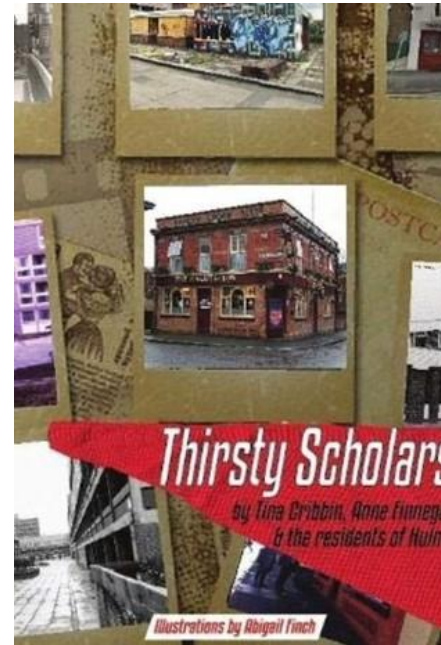
Building the Partnership

Long history of resident-led action and activism:
Theatre production, poetry book, community
organisation.

Approached Man Met University/University of
Manchester for support undertaking research
alongside local charity and GP surgery

Developed Ageing Well in Place in Hulme
partnership, including their landlord (One
Manchester Housing Association)

Gained funding to support development of
'Naturally Occuring Retirement Community'



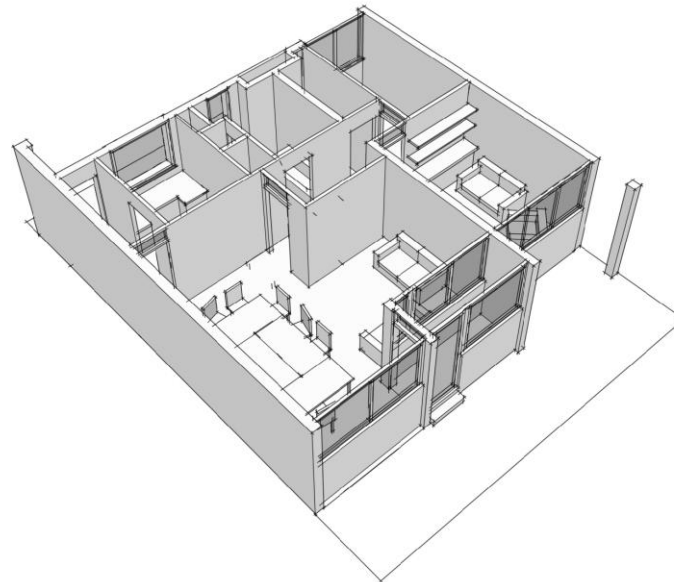
Creating Space

No social space within the block (other than garden).

Got funding to assess feasibility of community space in the garden, but later the landlord said this would be possible.

Alternative – housing association converting a vacant flat into a community space. Group off 9 residents on the management committee.

Co-design = mediating the needs of professionals (procurement, legal) and residents (informal and creative engagement)



Conclusions

Both examples made possible by long term commitment to Age-Friendly model in Greater Manchester.

Stories, word of mouth, learning, capacity, skills, leadership

Place-based: Recognising that initiatives that support ageing in place often have diverse starting points, but aim for the same ending (coordinated action, older people as leaders, focusing on improving outcomes as experiences in particular situations)



Thank you!

www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/ageing/

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