

# Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel



## Annual Report 2020 to 2021

This is the Panel's second yearly report  
It tells you what we did in 2020 and 2021

**“Our goal is to make Greater Manchester  
one of the best places in the world for  
disabled people to live”**

## Introduction

### About the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel

The Panel is made up of 14 different Disabled People's Organisations from all over Greater Manchester.



A Disabled People's Organisation is a group that is mostly run by disabled people. Different organisations may have members with different sorts of impairments.



The Panel links Disabled People's Organisations and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham. It makes sure that disabled people are part of running and planning things in the Greater Manchester area.



It was set up in 2019 and is organised by Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People. They employ 2 members of staff who support the work the Panel does.

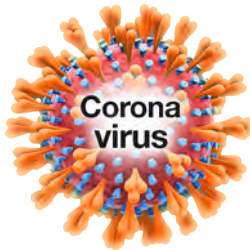
We follow the Social Model of Disability and the 7 Needs of Independent Living.

## Organisations that are Panel members



- Breakthrough UK
- Disability Stockport
- Embrace Wigan & Leigh
- Greater Manchester Autism Coalition
- Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People
- University of Manchester Disabled Staff Network
- Salford Disability Forum
- Manchester Deaf Centre
- Manchester Disabled People's Access Group
- Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts
- Manchester People First
- National Federation of the Blind
- People First Tameside
- Rochdale and District Disability Action Group

## COVID-19



The Panel had to change the way it met and worked. Because of the Coronavirus we had to have video meetings.

The Coronavirus Pandemic had a big effect on disabled people. Barriers already made things harder for disabled people.



## Survey

We were asked to do a survey of disabled people to find out what problems they faced.

We did a report about what we found out. The report also gave our recommendations – these are things we thought the 10 local councils in Greater Manchester and the national Government should do.



We also sent the report to lots of committees, organisations, groups, MPs, Councillors and other people who might be able to make things better for disabled people.

We tell you later in this report about how well our recommendations have been followed, and update them.



## Other things the Panel did



The Panel worked with other groups and official bodies about:

- Shielding
- Accessibility of Covid vaccinations
- Exemptions from wearing face masks on public transport
- Mental wellbeing
- Disabled people, employment and Covid
- Planning towns and cities to be more inclusive
- Text services for Community Hubs



- Work with other groups that were from groups of people who experienced racial inequality
- Share good practice by going to meetings of Greater Manchester Inequalities Board, the Hate Crime Partnership and Greater Manchester Humanitarian Assistance Board
- Helping Disabled People's Panels in other cities such as Brighton, Bristol and Sheffield
- Held an event with the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the University of Leeds. This was about using the UN Convention of Human Rights to get disabled people's rights.
- Supporting disabled people to take part in politics



## A hard year

The Coronavirus Pandemic meant we had to meet online. Many disabled people had to Shield.

Lots of work was done by the Panel which we were not funded for. As the Panel got more well known, we got asked for help more.



## Our work

### What has been done and what needs to be done in the next year

When we did the survey, we came up with ideas about what should be done to sort out the problems we found.

This part of our Annual Report tells you what we said should be done, and how much has managed to be done.



We have used 'traffic lights' to show this:



- Red means as far as we know, nothing has been done about our recommendations



- Amber means something is being done, or will be done



- Green means a lot of things have been done



- Question mark means we do not know if there has been anything done

## Equality Impact Assessments

In 2020 we recommended:

“All public bodies in Greater Manchester who give services to disabled people, should do Equality Impact Assessments of their Covid-19 response. They should then do what the Assessments recommend.”



How we doing



Some work done

In 2021 we recommend:

- All councils in Greater Manchester involve disabled people in their Equality Impact Assessments and action plans.
- All councils and public services follow the Greater Manchester Disabled Commitment.

## Digital Exclusion

In 2020 we recommended:

“Digital devices, along with training, support and data costs should be given to disabled people to stop them being excluded.”



How we doing



Some work done

In 2021 we recommend:

- Plans to do things about digital exclusion should try to find out how many disabled people are digitally excluded.



## Accessible Information



In 2020 we recommended:

“Covid-19 information should be available to every disabled person in a form that is understandable to them.

Accessible formats can be easy read, large print, audio, Braille British Sign Language and others.”

How we doing



Some work done

In 2021 we recommend:

- Public and private organisations should look at the information they give to the public and check it meets standards.
- A Disabled People's Organisation should be funded to be an accessible information hub to give expert advise on barrier-free information.



How we doing



Some work done

## Disabled people involved in planning

In 2020 we recommended:

“Disabled people and their organisations should be part of all decision making.”

In 2021 we recommend:

- Carry on with the work we are doing.

How we doing



Some work done

## Isolation, safety and mental health

In 2020 we recommended:

“There should be more money and resources for mental health support.”

In 2021 we recommend:

- Carry on with the work we are doing.

How we doing



No progress

## Independent living

In 2020 we recommended:

“There should be a long term plan for independent living in the community. This should be a right for disabled people.”



How we doing



Some work done

### 1. Personal assistants and carers

In 2020 we recommended:

“Personal Assistants and Carers having to self-isolate caused shortages of staff to support people. To stop this problem:

- Let disabled people hire family or friends.
- Services to have a pool of shared staff.
- Extra funding to people to hire cover staff.
- Let disabled people be able to pay for PPE from their Care Budget.
- Make DBS checks quicker.”

How we doing



Lot of things done

## 2. Care Act easing

In 2020 we recommended:

“Keep the Care Act 2014 standards.”

2021 update:

The government have stopped their plans to end Care Act Easing – this was a plan to lower standards.

How we doing



No progress

## 3. Recommendation to the Government

In 2020 we recommended:

“Put its social care plans into action.”

2021 update:

The Government did not put social care in its plans for what it would do over the year.

How we doing



Some work done

## BAME Disabled People's Organisation

In 2020 we recommended:

“Greater Manchester Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Disabled People's Organisation should be started.”

2021 update:

We will look at how to involve in our work more disabled people who are more likely to face discrimination on grounds of race.



How we doing



Some work done

How we doing



No progress

How we doing



Lot of things done

## Disabled People's Organisation

In 2020 we recommended:

“There should be Disabled People's Organisations in all 10 areas of Greater Manchester.”

In areas where there is not one (Bolton, Bury, Oldham and Trafford) there should be help and resources given to set one up.”

2021 update:

We have been working with local councils in there areas which do not have a Panel. We are getting new members in those areas.

In 2020 we recommended to the Government:

“The Government should fund all councils to have a Disabled Person's Organisation in their area.”

In 2020 we recommended:

“City regions such as Greater Manchester should set up panels like the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel.”

2021 update:

- Panels are being developed in Brighton, Bristol, East and West Cheshire and Sheffield. Liverpool are also interested.



## Employment

In 2020 we recommended:

“Organisations do Equality Impact Assessments and agree reasonable adjustments with disabled staff as part of their Covid return to work plans.”

How we doing



We do not know

How we doing



Some work done



2021 update:

We do not have any information about this. We are asking the Greater Manchester Health Board to find out about disabled people going back to work.

In 2020 we also recommended:

“Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Employment Charter give clear guidance and standards to make sure disabled staff are supported to go back to work.”

2021 update:

Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter members should have clear equality action plans.

How we doing



We do not know

In 2020 we also recommended:

“Government, employers and councils should publish information about disabled people and employment, before and after the pandemic.”

How we doing



No progress

In 2020 we also recommended:

“Employers schools and universities should look at what reasonable adjustments people may need without them having to ask.”

How we doing



Some work done

In 2020 we also recommended:

“Greater Manchester Employment Charter puts on events and publishes good practice guides to make sure disabled staff stay in work.”

2021 update:

- They have published articles on the ‘Disability Employment Gap’.
- We would like to work with them and look at barriers for disabled people that have been made worse by the pandemic.

How we doing



We do not know

In 2020 we also recommended:

“Positive action be taken in work programmes to support disabled people in getting jobs.”

2021 update:

Greater Manchester Work and Health Board should see if there has been positive action in the work it supports.

How we doing



No progress

2020 recommendation to Government:

“Government should remind employers that the Equality Act is still the law and must be followed during the pandemic.”

2021 update:

We have not got any information about this.

## Education

How we doing



We do not know

In 2020 we recommended:

“Greater Manchester should try to have a fully supported inclusive education system. All children who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) should get the same, good level of support.”

2021 update:

Councils should find out how children who have an EHCP have been supported, and publish action plans.

How we doing



We do not know

**In 2020 we recommended:**

“Funding for Adult Education should be protected for people who have been most affected by the pandemic.”

**2021 update:**

We have not got any new information since the GM Big Disability Survey to see if this has been done.



How we doing

**Face masks**

**In 2020 we also recommended:**

“Clear face masks should be worn by staff in public buildings and in workplaces. This will help deaf people to lip read and many other people better understand what is being said.



Some work done

There should be posters and leaflets to tell people about problems some people have with masks that are not clear.

There should be a campaign to tell people why someone may not be wearing a mask and that Hate Crimes are against the law.”



## Transport



In 2020 we recommended:  
“Fewer disabled people seem to be using public transport.”

### How we doing



- The Panel thinks that transport providers look into this.
- They should publish what they find out.
- They should talk to Disabled People's Organisations about it.

### Some work done

#### 2021 update:

- We have not been given local information on public transport.
- We did take part in a national online event organised by 'Transport Focus'.  
This was about the effect Covid had on accessible transport.



## Our Work Plan for 2021 to 2022

### Thank you for reading our Annual Report

This is what we did in 2020 and 2021. We have now made a list of the things we need to do next. You can read all about it in our Work Plan.



# Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel



**The office is closed  
at the moment due  
to COVID-19**

## Contact details

### Staff



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