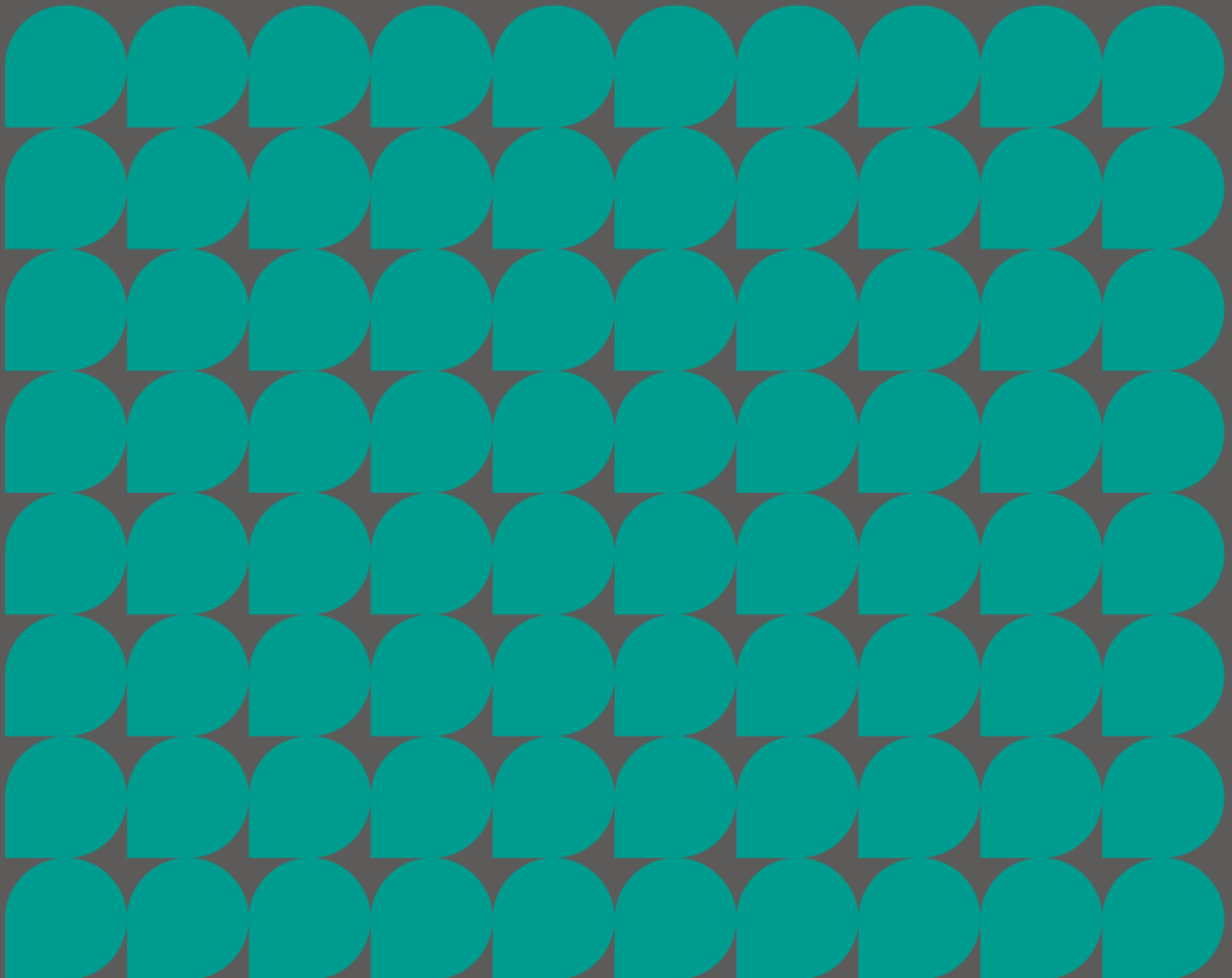


Greater Manchester Equality Panels

Quarterly update

April 2025



Introduction

The Equality Panels have been established to advise, support and challenge political leaders and policymakers to tackle the discrimination and disadvantage that cause injustice and inequality in society, and champion Greater Manchester as an inclusive city-region. For more information on the Equality Panels, including previous updates, please visit our [website](#).

Disabled People's Panel

In the last three months

In February the Equalities and Communities Portfolio Leads updated the Panel on the system response to Panel's Big Disability Survey recommendations. The Panel have worked with Combined Authority colleagues on the Terms of Reference for the Greater Manchester Social Care Commission and pursued accessible housing standards in Local Plans. In addition, the Panel developed membership, complaints, decision making processes, and elected new Co-chairs, as well as drawing up the Panel's 2025-26 Forward Plan.

Highlights include:

The Panel agreed condemnation and opposition to the Government's Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper. The Panel were referenced by the Mayor of Greater Manchester in his concern over the proposals and will work with Combined Authority colleagues on a response to the consultation, as well as working with the Mayor on the more positive approach through Live Well.

In the next three months

The Panel will launch their new Mental Wellbeing Grants, developed in partnership with health colleagues. The Panel will also continue to defend our communities from the Government Green Paper, and strengthen the link between their Easy and Standard Panel meetings.

Faith and Belief Advisory Panel

In the last three months

The Panel have developed a Community Cohesion and Resilience Mobilisation Plan to enable our Faith and Belief communities and networks to step up in the event of emergencies or civil unrest. This includes a process for agreeing one powerful message of solidarity to be given out by all Faith and Belief places in Greater Manchester simultaneously.

Highlights include:

The ongoing contribution that Faith and Belief is making to the city-region's key priorities and developments, including tackling homelessness, supporting migrants and food security. These will feed into the refresh of the Greater Manchester Strategy.

In the next three months

The Panel will meet with Council Leaders and local Interfaith Networks to discuss how the Faith, Belief and Interfaith Covenant can support relationships to thrive in their boroughs, supporting further development of networks and creating an Interfaith Network infrastructure across the city-region.

LGBTQ+ Equality Panel

In the last three months

The Panel completed a priority setting exercise with Combined Authority colleagues and identified health, housing and education as their key areas of interest for 2025. The Panel also completed a skills audit to identify where our expertise lies and make meetings accessible to all. These accessibility standards will be shared with speakers coming into the panel, to help them ensure the Panel can add value to conversations.

Highlights include:

The Panel had a very productive discussion with the Combined Authority Housing Strategy and Homelessness Teams on issues faced by LGBTQ+ communities. The Panel also elected two new co-leads for 2025.

In the next three months

The Panel will be meeting with representatives from the Integrated Care Board to learn more about LGBTQ+ health and care, and policy leads on curriculum and the MBacc to discuss priorities related to education. In June, the Panel will consider information from this year's discussions and set their long-term workgroup agendas.

Older People's Equality Panel

In the last three months

The Panel discussed how the Ageing in Place Pathfinder projects can contribute to Live Well, hearing from the Rideghill Together project in Tameside. The Panel was also represented at a range of session on topics including financial hardship, digital switchover, Adult Social Care transformation, digital inclusion, housing, Live Well and the Age Friendly Futures Summit.

Highlights include:

Panel members attended workshops on the recruitment of Vaccinations Champions, delivered in partnership with the Public Health Team. 25 champions have been recruited who will work within their communities and networks to support NHS vaccination campaigns throughout the year.

In the next three months

The Panel will be working with the Older People's Network to explore options for an "Our Pass" style add on to the Older Person's Concessionary Travel Pass. This as an opportunity to promote the Bee Network, share information which benefits older people as well as arranging discounts which will contribute to health and well-being.

Race Equality Panel

In the last three months

A priority for the Panel is supporting and challenging public services to take proactive action to tackle racial inequalities in both their workforce and the services they deliver. This year the Panel have met with Greater Manchester Police to review their latest Achieving Race Equality Report, and with the Combined Authority to hear progress on their Race Equity Framework. These discussions continue, for example advising on the development of a set of measures that will effectively monitor progress towards racial equity across the city-region.

Highlights include:

The Panel Co-Chair spoke at the launch of the new Police and Crime Plan, recognising the inclusion of specific commitments regarding racial equality within the new plan. In addition, the Panel have recruited ten new panel members, expanding their range of experiences, skills and connections.

In the next three months

The Panel will be providing their insight into priority work areas, including the Good Landlord Charter, raising awareness and challenging stigma in mental health and wellbeing, recruitment and retention in policing, and the new Get Greater Manchester Working programme. In addition, the Panel are supporting the launch of this year's Civic Leadership Programme.

Women and Girls Equality Panel

In the last three months

At our Strategy Day in February, the Panel established working groups on Women's Health and Education, Skills and Employment, and agreed a decision-making process for sensitive and significant matters. In March the Panel met with the Access for All team at Transport for Greater Manchester to support the design of gender responsive and accessible rail stations.

Highlights include:

The Panel Co-Chair and Panel members attended GM4Women2028's Annual Data Scorecard Reveal event, which examines 10 markers of gender inequality in Greater Manchester. This data shows that inequality remains the reality for Women and Girls right across the board.

In the next three months

The Panel will begin to work with GMCA to integrate a gender mainstreaming lens into the development of the MBacc. In addition, the Health Group will look at how to support the Women's Health Strategy's priority of improving the quality and accessibility of information for Women and Girls.

Youth Combined Authority

In the last three months

The YCA held a session with members of the Children's Board to discuss opportunities to work together, highlighting young people's experiences of safe spaces in their community. This was followed up with a session with Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, hearing about her role and discussing safer and stronger communities.

Highlights include:

YCA Co-Chair Hannah spoke at the Police and Crime Plan launch in January, sharing the YCA's hopes for the plan and the importance of working with young people in its delivery.

In the next three months

The YCA will be working with the Our Pass team on developing the exclusives offer, as well as continued discussions around MBacc, as well as hosting a development day for YCA members.