



Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network

Ending Homelessness in Greater Manchester

What is the GMHAN?



A network of organisations across the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester, which brings people together to work to end homelessness. This includes people with lived experience of homelessness, people from frontline organisations, public sector offices, VCSE organisations, local authorities, and anyone working to find more effective solutions to the homelessness crisis

We do this in two main ways

▶ **Networking**- bringing people together to network, make connections and share learning we can help to build on the good work that is already being done across the city region

▶ **Influencing**- bring people together to influence systems change by forming a collective voice. This can then speak for the system as a whole about what is being experienced and what we want to change.

How do we do this?

Networking

We create spaces where people from all ten boroughs of Greater Manchester can come together, meet, build relationships and learn from each other. This takes the form of our in-person full network events, which take place once a quarter. They focus on a range of topics, from Prison & Resettlement to Legislative Theatre.

We also host virtual 'Open Spaces' which can be used to discuss anything that is going on. These spaces don't have an agenda, and aren't led by the network. They are open to anyone & everyone that wants to bring people together to discuss different ways we can work to reduce homelessness

Our next full network event is taking place on Thursday
30th November 2023

It will focus on exploring **What is being done in Greater Manchester and beyond to tackle youth homelessness**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-is-being-done-to-tackle-youth-homelessness-in-greater-manchester-tickets-740691617567>



How do we do this?

Influencing

We also form a collective voice to influence systems change. This is important as it means we are not just finding ways to work better within the system, but change the way the system operates as a whole.

We do this by feeding into policy, such as the GMCA Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2021-26. GMCA coproduced this with the GMHAN and GM Jokers by delivering legislative theatre sessions and consultation sessions, which put the voice of lived experience at the center of how this strategy was developed.

The work of the GMHAN is driven by three task groups- Learn, Lobby and Deliver. These groups bring people together to work on specific objectives. They are open to anyone who is interested in influencing systems change.



How do we connect?

Networks & Partnership working

As the name suggests, Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network works at a Greater Manchester level, across the 10 boroughs.

In many of the boroughs of Greater Manchester there are also local homelessness partnerships

- Manchester Homelessness Partnership
- Oldham Homelessness Forum
- Rochdale Homelessness Network
- Bury Homelessness Partnership

These partnerships all work in slightly different ways at a local level. The GMHAN links in with the local partnerships and helps to feed in at a Greater Manchester level.

As the GMHAN develops we also aim to help establish local partnerships within boroughs which don't currently operate in this way.



What have we achieved so far?

2017

GMHAN established to align with the election of the first Mayor of Greater Manchester. Later that year the first meeting took place, coordinated by the newly appointed Homelessness Advisor to Andy Burnham

The Network collaborated on a Strategy to End Rough Sleeping based on Reduction, Recovery, Respite and Reconnection.

2018

The 'Beast from the East' led to extreme weather conditions across Greater Manchester, dangerous for anyone rough sleeping. In response the GMHAN proposed & develop a city-region wide night shelter scheme which later evolved into A Bed Every Night (ABEN)

2019

Dame Casey reviewed the ABEN scheme with significant input from the GMHAN and the network supported an independent review, incorporating views of people accessing ABEN. By championing the results of both reviews the network influenced the ABEN Phase 2 launch.

We hosted an event focusing on homeless families, which helped to secure funding for a programme led by Shared Health Foundation for families living in temporary accommodation. The event influenced Manchester City council policy around placing families in B&Bs and hostels.

The Network also brought partners together to help develop a Youth Homelessness Social Impact Bond (SIB), which is now being delivered as a Prevention Programme. During the 2019 election the GMHAN fed into the national policy asks made by the Mayor of Manchester

2020

The Covid pandemic threw a lot of the Network priorities out the window, with focus going on immediate COVID response. In particular 'Everyone In' drawing on partner networks to ensure effective, appropriate staffing for hotels. Core members of the GMHAN ensured that hotels had access to good quality food, internet & devices. This group also coordinated the huge number of donations that were on offer. The Network published its own coproduced blueprint to 'Build Back Better'. Which was used to lobby government with better approached to ending homelessness.

We submitted information to DHLUC on the impact of Covid-19 on homelessness and the private rented sector. This fed into central government by highlighting what can be achieved with collaborative working in an emergency, and proposes workable solutions for the future. Including national policy asks & actions at a local and combined authority level

2021

The GMHAN held an Open Space on probation services centred on the experience of people with history of offending facing homelessness. This established partnerships and approaches which inform the Communication Accommodation Service Model being delivered in Greater Manchester.

The main focus of the Network was developing GMCA's Homelessness Prevention Strategy & Action Plan. We supported and led alternative ways of co-producing this strategy, including Legislative Theatre workshops and thematic sessions on the key points drawing people across the city-region

This year the GMHAN restructured, which included the GMHAN Manager coming into post and the formation of the 3 task groups which looked at the key areas of Learn, Lobby & Deliver. We are hosting an event focusing on employment, training & education and how support for this can be improved for people facing homelessness. The network continues to feed into the homelessness prevention strategy, by supporting GMCA to gather feedback on the impact it's had so far

Plans for the future

- Support & encourage Local Partnerships in every borough of Greater Manchester to bring more voices into the conversation about ending and preventing homelessness
- Play a leading role in the delivery of the Prevention Strategy Action Plan, holding ourselves and others to account for its progress.
- Create more opportunities and support for people who have experienced homelessness to have their voices heard in decisions which might affect them

Where to find us?



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