

History of the Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network

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 **2018** Reduction, Recovery, Respite and Reconnection.

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 evolve 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 & hostels.

The Network also brought partners together to help develop a Youth Homelessness Social Impact Bond, 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 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

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.

2022

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 hosted an event focusing on employment, training & education and how support for this can be improved for people facing homelessness. The network continued 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

