Ageing and Loneliness in Manchester



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- Profile of Manchester Residents
- Plans to reduce loneliness as part of Age-Friendly Manchester
- Opportunities for taking the loneliness and ageing agenda forward



A tough patch

- Population 504,000
- Greater Manchester: ten authorities, pop: 2.6 million
- Unusual older population: result of cohort migration/economic decline in 70/80s
- Second lowest male life expectancy in England
- High levels of pensioner poverty, ill-health and disability.
- High levels of population churn
- Vibrant public, community and private sectors

<u>Manchester:</u> <u>A Great Place to Grow Older 2010-2020</u>



Sets out the vision of Manchester as a place where older people are more empowered, healthy and happy.

 "Improving relationships.... by tackling loneliness and social isolation"

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Features of the Manchester approach



- Political support
- Multi-sector team
- Strong communication strategy
- Partnerships
- Community-led projects
- Working with older people

Types of ageing strategies		
<u>Medical</u>	<u>Care</u>	<u>Citizenship</u>
Patient	Customer	Citizen
Focus on individual	Focus on individual, family and informal support	Focus on social networks neighbourhood and city
Clinical interventions	Care interventions	Promoting social capital and participation
Commission for 'frail elderly'	Commission for vulnerable people	Age-proofing universal services
Prevention of entry to hospital	Prevention to delay entry to care system	Reducing social exclusion
Health (and care system)	Whole system	Changing social structure and attitudes

<u>Manchester Ageing Strategy/Age-friendly</u> <u>Manchester</u>

Manchester Aging Strategy 2010-20. Age-Friendly Manchester launched in October 2012.

VOP Board

Loneliness identified as priority by older people.

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
 Loneliness and Isolation is identified as a priority especially due to it's negative impact on the mental health and well being of older people.
- <u>Manchester Health and Well Being Board</u> Older people included as one of the ten priorities.

Improving Relationships by...

- Supporting a range of services to reach the more isolated older people.
- Extending access to befriending schemes.
- Boosting neighbourhood-based support.
- Supporting the development of self-help groups.l
- Increasing access to drop-in sessions, social clubs, learning and cultural activities etc.
- Investigating how new technologies can reduce, or promote, loneliness and isolation.

Developing local activities

- VOP Networks and Community development
- Strong voluntary and community sector
- Cultural Offer for older people
- Small Grants Programme







Coordinating local action

Establishment of Task Group:

- To raise awareness of the significance and impact of loneliness.
- To ensure that there is support for front line staff e.g. awareness raising and resources.
- To promote practical interventions.
- To recommend good practice.
- To act as a central point of contact for individuals and organisations working to address it.

Social exclusion in later life

- Material resources
- Social relations
- Civic activities
- Basic services
- Neighbourhood exclusion Scharf et al 2004

"Some councils will see an outward migration of affluent people in their 50s and 60s who choose to leave the cities....the remaining older population...tends to be....poorer, isolated and more vulnerable with a lower life expectancy and a need for acute interventions" *Audit Commission 2008*

Ageing the city

"I just sit in this flat staring at the television or the walls. You get to a point where you think I can't cope: I mean you think what's the point being stuck in this flat day in day out." Female, 51, West Gorton

National Campaign to End Loneliness

- Securing the commitment of Health and Wellbeing Boards to take action to reduce loneliness.
- Building an evidence base.
- Raising the awareness of policy makers.
- Working with local councils.
- Developing a toolkit for commissioners.
- Silver Line 'phone line.





Next steps: Age-Friendly Manchester



- VOP-Plus
- Locality-based work
- Age-proofing services
- Older people as leaders
- Based on research and evaluation
- Loneliness Task group

Conclusions

- Loneliness is an enduring feature of city life for many older people and may grow.
- Link loneliness to broader programmes that improve the city for older people.
- National campaign to promote work with local agencies.