Age-Friendly Futures Programme

Three day Conference

25 – 27 March 2025

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the Age-Friendly Futures Summit. This programme is for the whole event, which constitutes many audiences.

In order to clarify which parts of the event you are attending; we have colour coordinated the programme for you. **You are attending the three-day conference.**

🟡	**Three-day conference**	25 – 27 March
🔴	**Leading and co-creating through policy and practice**	26 March only, including State of Ageing launch and reception
🟢	**UK Network of Age-Friendly Communities Conference**	26 – 27 March, only for members of UK Network of Age-Friendly Communities

The colours and name of your group correspond to the header you have received in any emails for us, and this colour will be used throughout the event to demonstrate what you are attending. If you are unsure which group you belong to, please email **agefriendlyfutures@oddity.com**.

Day 1 - Tuesday 25th March 2025

Led by Manchester Metropolitan University (Architecture Research Office) and University of Manchester (Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group) will reflect on the rationale for age-friendly work and consider how **research** can **advance** action by partnering with policy makers and older citizens to make urban environments better places to grow old.

Venue: Chamber of Commerce, Elliot House, 151 Deansgate, M3 3WD

Time	Session	Description	Speakers	Room
11:15 – 11:30 🟡	**Summit opening**	Welcome from GMCA, on behalf of the summit partners: the WHO, the UK Centre for Ageing Better, Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester. Introducing the conference themes of advancing, leading, and creating Age Friendly Futures	**Paul McGarry-** Assistant Director of Public Service Reform and Head of the GM Ageing Hub, GMCA	White Room
11:30 – 12:30 🟡	**Advancing spatial justice in age-friendly work** Plenary panel	Key issues for advancing age-friendly futures in research and policy implementation. Presentations setting out two principal challenge areas: • Understanding and creating places for equitable urban ageing. Exploring the challenges of designing, implementing and evaluating Age Friendly Cities and Communities programmes. • Exploring how a 'spatial justice' lens can advance age-friendly work, highlighting the importance of redistributing resources, amplifying diverse voices, and fostering co-production to create more inclusive and equitable age-friendly communities.	*Chair*: **Paul McGarry** – Assistant Director of Public Service Reform and Head of the GM Ageing Hub, GMCA **Prof Stefan White** – Professor of Architecture, Director of Advanced and Applied Architectural Reseach Office (ARO), Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) **Prof Tine Buffel** – Professor of Sociology and Social Gerontology & Director of Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group (MUARG), University of Manchester (UoM)	White Room
12:30 – 13:15 **Lunch**				
13:15 – 15:00	**A global survey of age friendly futures research.**	This session will push the debate on age-friendly cities and communities forward by addressing:	*Chair:* **Dr Mark Hammond,** Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University	White Room

●	**Panel 1: Future age-friendly cities: Towards sustainable and just urban ageing.** Parallel session	• How cities can be future proofed against climate, economic, and demographic change. • The role of spatial justice in ensuring age-friendly policies benefit all older adults equitably. • Strategies for sustainable urban design that enhance the resilience of ageing populations. • Current research gaps and the future of age-friendly research.	(MMU), Manchester School of Architecture (MSA) **Ryan Woolrych** - Professor in Ageing and Urban Studies, Heriot Watt University **Emi Kiyota** - Associate Professor, National University of Singapore **Judith Phillips** - Professor of Environmental and Social Gerontology, University of Stirling **Beatriz Fernandez** – Associate Professor, Urban Studies, The School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris **Jo-Pei Tan** - Senior Lecturer, Integrated Health and Social Care, MMU	
	A global survey of age friendly futures research. **Panel 2: Co-creating inclusive age-friendly cities: Research across disciplines and sectors.** Parallel session	This session will critically examine who benefits from age-friendly policies, who is excluded, and how research can drive meaningful change, ensuring that age-friendly cities are co-created with, rather than just for, diverse older populations. • How urban design and infrastructure shape the inclusion or exclusion of ageing populations. • Strategies for co-production and participatory design to ensure diverse voices are heard. • The psychological and cognitive dimensions of ageing in diverse urban settings. • Current research gaps and the future of age-friendly research.	*Chair:* **Prof Stefan White** **Joost van Hoof -** Professor of Urban Ageing, Faculty of Social Work & Education of The Hague University of Applied Sciences **Rahimah Ibrahim** - Associate Professor, Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing (UoM) **Neil Dagnall** - Professor in Applied Cognitive Psychology, MMU **Nicola Waterworth** – Strategic Lead - Ageing in Place at Greater Manchester Ageing Hub (GMCA). **Niamh Kavanagh** - Research Associate, UoM	Connect Room
	15:00 – 15:30 **Break**			

15:30 – 17:00 🟡	**The Global Age-Friendly Research Challenge: Co-creating Research – advancing age-friendly research futures**	How can we move the agenda forward? Discussing new areas, networks, and interdisciplinary collaborations in small groups. The output from this session will be to draft a summit statement to be published as a letter or short communication: Age-Friendly Futures Network. Identify Journal, Ageing and Society? **Facilitated Discussions**	White Room
17:00 🟡	**Close, next steps**	A chance to report back on discussions from the table.	White Room

	Day 2 - Wednesday 26th March			
Led by the **Greater Manchester Combined Authority**, this day explores the **leadership** and practical action that is needed to **create** age-friendly cities and city regions, by showcasing the work from Greater Manchester. **Venue:** Chamber of Commerce, Elliot House, 151 Deansgate, M3 3WD			
Time	**Session**	**Description**	**Speakers**	**Room**
9:30 - 10:00 🟡 🔴	**Plenary panel**	This plenary will welcome attendees to Greater Manchester and set out the importance of age-friendly work to city regions and other subnational actors. As an introduction to the day and its themes, the panel will also provide an overview of the Greater Manchester experience of building an ecosystem and taking forward the age-friendly agenda.	**Lynne Ridsdale** - Chief Executive (Bury Council) and Greater Manchester Portfolio Lead for Equalities **Dr Thiago Herick de Sa –** Technical Officer, Age-friendly Environments, World Health Organisation, Geneva **Sir Richard Leese –** Chair, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board	Elliot Suite
10:00 – 10:50 🟡 🔴	**Building leadership through cross-system collaboration** Presentation followed by panel	This panel will set out the key features of developing cross-sectoral collaboration at a city regional level, including what the experience of this is for individual actors. The panel will discuss the added value of developing cross-system collaboration for institutions and for people within the region. Paul McGarry will share learning from working in partnership with Centre for Ageing Better, and panellists will discuss how change can be created by using a cross-system approach.	*Chair*: **Paul McGarry –** Assistant Director of Public Service Reform and Head of the GM Ageing Hub, GMCA **Prof Tine Buffel** – Professor of Sociology and Social Gerontology & Director of Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group (MUARG), University of Manchester (UoM) **Prof Stefan White** – Professor of Architecture, Director of Advanced and Applied Architectural Research Office (ARO), Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) **Thiago Herick de Sa -** lead for Age-friendly Environments, World Health Organisation, Geneva **Leesa Hellings-Lamb** - Public Health Specialist, Age Well and Wider Determinants (Bolton Council) **Anne Berit Rafoss –** Project Manager, Centre for an Age-Friendly Norway	Elliot Suite

10:50– 11:15 Coffee break				

	Building leadership through supporting the voice and meaningful engagement of people in mid and later life Panel session	This panel will consider the different levels of leadership within an age-friendly ecosystem, and the varying ways in which older people lead and participate in age-friendly work. This includes a short interview with Elaine Unegbu, Chair of Age-Friendly Manchester Older People's Board and the Greater Manchester Older People's Network, followed by a discussion around good practice, challenges and gaps.	*Chair*: **Natalie Turner –** Deputy Director for Localities, Centre for Ageing Better **Elaine Unegbu –** Chair, Age-Friendly Manchester Older People's Board **Nicola Waterworth –** Strategic Programme Lead, Ageing in Place Pathfinder (GMCA) **Julia Peterbauer –** International Relations Officer, Vienna Social Fund **Tom van Bentham –** Strategic Policy Advisor, Amsterdam	Elliot Suite
11:15 – 12:05 🟡 🔴				

12:05 – 13:00 🟡 🔴	**Building leadership through economic growth and development** Panel session	This panel will investigate the strategies that age-friendly programmes can adopt to speak to economic growth and development agendas. Panellists will discuss the economic opportunities of ageing populations for city regions, as well as key priorities around ageing and innovation. This panel will identify strategic drivers and discuss how to position ageing work within economic and development opportunities for cities and city regions.	*Chair:* **Emily Andrews –** Deputy Director for Work, Centre for Ageing Better **David Sinclair –** Chief Executive, International Longevity Centre – UK **Andrea Winders –** Head of Business Development, Manchester Inward Development Agency Service (MIDAS) **Prof Lynne Corner –** Director, VOICE and COO, National Innovation Centre for Ageing (NICA) **Angela Harrington –** Director of Inclusive Economy, Growth and Development (Manchester City Council) **Michael Hodin –** Chief Executive Officer, Global Coalition on Ageing	Elliot Suite

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch and arrival of UK Network of Age-Friendly Communities 🟢				

14:00 – 15:00	**Creating Age-friendly homes: Research, Policy and Practice**	In this session, we will explore how we can create more age-friendly homes in our cities and	**Mark Hammond** – Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University	White Room

●●● **Fjo**	Breakout session	communities. The session is being organised by the GM Housing, Planning and Ageing group – an interdisciplinary task group aiming to improve the quality and quantity of age-friendly housing in Greater Manchester, UK. We will explore how cross-sectoral partnerships between researchers, policy-makers and built environment practitioners can better address the diverse housing needs of older people, using practical examples developed over the last 5 years. We will invite delegates attending to share examples of good practice, helping us to reflect on how the age-friendly movement can better support the creation of age-inclusive homes.	(MMU), Manchester School of Architecture (MSA) **Shannon Conway –** Co-Founder, Picture This **Nigel Saunders –** Director, Pozzoni Architecture **Kelly-Marie Rogers –** Strategic Lead, Healthy Active Places (GM Moving) **Steve Fyfe –** Head of Housing Strategy, GMCA	
	Co-creating community-led responses for social connection Breakout session	Join practitioners from Greater Manchester's social housing providers, civil society organisations and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority sharing their experiences of co-creation with residents in mid and later life. This interactive session will draw on examples from community-based work in the Greater Manchester Ageing in Place Pathfinder, community reporting from Talking About My Generation and the role of spatial data mapping and action planning.	*Chair:* **Liz Windsor-Welsh –** Chief Executive, Action Together **Miu Tsui –** Age-Friendly Project Manager, Southway Housing **Amanda Aitken –** Ageing in Place Development worker, Healthy Me Healthy Communities **Becky Earl –** Age-Friendly Advisor, Rochdale Borough Housing **Kirsty Day –** Media Director, Talking About My Generation **Sandaru Weerasinghe –** Lead Analyst, GM Ageing Hub**,** GMCA	Elliot Suite
	Stronger together: uniting community, clinical and care for falls prevention Breakout session	Falls Prevention has been a key priority for Greater Manchester over the years, and we have made a significant shift in moving this agenda forwards. This interactive workshop will be a dedicated session to discuss with key leaders from across the system how we strengthen our existing collaboration to influence future policy and practice. We will discuss how we build on the evidence-base, share best practice and integrated approaches to fall	*Chair:* **Prof. Jane McDermott** - NIHR Policy Research Unit Healthy Ageing, University of Manchester **Dr Nikesh Vallabh –** GP and Clinical Director for Proactive Care, NHS GM **Beth Mitchell –** Ageing Well Programme Manager, GM Ageing Hub, GMCA **Prof Chris Todd –** Professor of Primary Care &	Boardroom

		prevention, to enable older people in Greater Manchester to enjoy a longer, more independent, healthier life.	Community Health, UoM **Vincent Fraga** – Assistant Director of Adult Social Care Commissioning, Stockport Council	
	Age-friendly employment Breakout session	Support to access work has not always been designed with people in their 50s, 60s and beyond in mind. With people being more likely to face additional challenges in finding and sustaining work as they age, Greater Manchester Combined Authority in partnership with Centre for Ageing Better have taken steps to understand what residents need and to look at how our approach to employment support services and wider activity can support this. With a focus on those who are not in paid employment and may have barriers to work, we are looking at new ways to design and deliver employment related activity. We will be sharing insights from our projects to date, looking at how we can turn ideas into embedded policy and practice at a local level.	**Elaine Smith –** Senior Programme Manager for Work, Centre for Ageing Better/GMCA **Elayne Redford** – Work and Skills Specialist, Manchester City Council **Jane King-Fahey -** Supply Chain Manager**,** The Growth Company: Employment	Connect room
	Walking audits to create age-friendly environments **[Fully booked]** Breakout session	Join us for a walking audit of Manchester City Centre, exploring how the physical environment shapes ageing in place. This interactive session will draw on insights from the Greater Manchester Ageing in Place Pathfinder, particularly the resident-led walking audits in Gorton, to highlight the importance of community-driven approaches in understanding and improving neighbourhoods for older residents. By taking part, you will gain first-hand experience of how walking audits can inform inclusive urban design, learn from examples of co-creation with residents, and discuss practical applications with fellow practitioners, including community	*Chair:* **Lauren Foster –** Project Manager, Ageing in Place Pathfinder, GM Ageing Hub, GMCA **Louise Robbins –** Strategic Lead, Walking & Active Environments (GM Moving) **Helen Hawes –** Community Engagement Assistant, Ageing in Place, Southway Housing	Training room (first round of breakouts) Gaskell room (second round of breakouts)

		organisations, social housing providers, and local government. **Spaces are limited to 12 participants.**		
		15:00 – 15:30 **Break**		
15:30 – 16:30	**Breakouts repeated as above, apart from falls prevention, replaced by below**			
	Mature Minds Matter: Enhancing and improving access to Mental Health Support for Older People **[Fully booked]** Breakout session	Mental health conditions among older people are often under-recognised, undertreated and the stigma surrounding these conditions can make people reluctant to seek help. In Greater Manchester, we are working across the system to challenge ageism and stigma around this, and as part of this workshop we will hear from system leaders in relation to the Mental Health and Wellbeing agenda for Greater Manchester, including the voice and lived experience from older people.	*Chair*: **Lynzi Shepherd –** Assistant Director of Mental Health Strategic Commissioning, NHS GM **Kathryn Dykes** – Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Greater Manchester Mental Health (GMMH) **Polly Kaiser –** Semi-Retired Clinical Psychologist **Luke Jordan** – Clinical Lead, Compass Manchester (Later Life Complex Emotional Needs/Personality Disorders Pathway), GMMH **Freddi Greenmantle**, Network Member (GM Mature Minds Matter) **James Barnard -** Network Member (GM Mature Minds Matter)	Training room
15:30 – 16:30	**Shaping the Future of Healthy Ageing: The WHO European Strategy on Ageing is Living** Parallel session	The planned **WHO European Strategy on Ageing is Living: Promoting Lifelong Health and Well-being (2026–2030)** envisions a future where everyone can age with dignity, living longer and healthier lives. This table based discussion session, co-organized by WHO Europe will directly contribute to the development of the Strategy.	*Chair:* **Yongjie Yon**, Technical Officer on Ageing and Health, WHO Europe **Prof Peter Kelley -** OHID Regional Director and NHS Director of Public Health – North East and Yorkshire	Boardroom
		16:30 – 17:00 Break to walk over to Manchester Hall, 36 Bridge St,		
17:00 – 19:30	**State of Ageing launch event**	Expert panel launching Centre for Ageing Better's flagship	**Dr Carole Easton –** Chief Executive, Centre for Ageing Better	Goulburn Suite, Manchester Hall

🟡 🔴 🟢	Presentation and panel session	report examining inequalities in the way we age.	*Chair:* **Elaine Unegbu** – Chair, Age-Friendly Manchester Older People's Board and Greater Manchester Older People's Network **Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy** – Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England and lead for the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities **Dr Aideen Young** – Senior Evidence Manager – Research Impact and Voice, Centre for Ageing Better **Prof. Carol Holland** – Director, Centre for Ageing Research, Lancaster University	
18:25 – 19:30 🟡 🔴 🟢	**Networking drinks reception**	Complimentary drinks and canapes provided during a networking drinks reception	**All delegates**	Goulburn Lodge, Manchester Hall

Day 3 - Thursday 27th March
Thursday will begin with a **consolidation session** for those attending the three-day conference. It will also **open the 6th Annual Conference of the UK Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities**, led by Centre for Ageing Better. **Venue:** Chamber of Commerce, Elliot House, 151 Deansgate, M3 3WD

Time	Session	Description	Speakers	Room
09:00 – 10:30 🟡	**Advancing Age-Friendly Futures: Next steps**	Final gathering of delegates from the previous days to refine future research and policy agendas, discuss collaboration and set out a roadmap for action.	White Room	