



# Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People

## Annual Report 2019 to 2020

GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
**coalition**  
—of disabled people—  
GMCDP

This is the easier to read version  
There is also a standard version  
Large Print version and a  
text only Word document  
for screenreader users



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# Welcome



This is our Annual Report. We write one every year to tell people about the work we have been doing.

This one tells you what we have done in the year from April 2019 to March 2020



## About Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People



Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) is a disabled people's organisation

- We are run and controlled by disabled people
- We started in 1985
- We campaign on issues that face disabled people
- We support the independence of disabled people and for them to play a full part in society
- We share information, run events and training for disabled people and people who give services
- We run projects
- We tell people about the social model of disability

# Directors' report



## Our Directors for 2019 to 2020 were:

GMCDP Chairperson: Heather Davidson

- Wadiha Ahmed
- Ken Audin
- Deborah Bhatti
- Heather Davidson
- Dr Paul Doyle
- Mohammed Egeh
- Steven Graby
- Kevin Greenan
- Maggie Griffiths
- Stephen Kingsberry
- Dennis Queen
- Audrey Stanton
- Anne Tober
- Mathias Warrington



We have carried on campaigning and working for disabled people in Greater Manchester, so they can have independent living, get over disabling barriers and become fully part of society.

A big thing we did was set up the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel. This brings together disabled people's organisations from all over Greater Manchester and is having an effect on how things are done.

Another important thing was the Disabled People's Archive being put in Manchester Central Library, and the exhibitions about the history of the disabled people's movement we did with the People's History Museum.

Many of the things we had planned to do had to change because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. We are looking at how it has had a bigger effect on disabled people and what needs to be done about it. On behalf of GMCDP, we would like to thank the staff, executive and members who work hard to make GMCDP successful.

Thank you to our funders, Manchester City Council, Young Manchester and The Big Lottery for support.

We would also like to thank Caron Blake, who was our Manager. She left in September 2019 and Nicola McDonagh took over.

# Manager's report

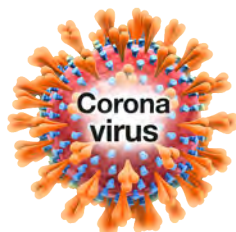


## Nicola McDonagh writes

The big event of the year was the Coronavirus pandemic. When it started, we began to worry about how it would affect disabled people, because of the pre-existing health conditions, and economic and social inequality many disabled people have.



There was very little guidance given. Many disabled people thought their lives were not being protected or valued. Because we are disabled people's organisation, we have a duty to act to protect our staff and members, so we closed our office in early March and switched to remote working.



This was the right thing to do. From March to July 2020, 6 out of 10 people who died from Covid-19 were disabled people. Disabled women were 11 times more likely to die than non-disabled women.

We looked at what could be done about the extra effects on disabled people.

I would like to thank all our staff, the Executive and our members for all their hard work during this time.

There were other changes at GMCDP. Caron Blake left after 14 years as Manager. She has played a big part in keeping our organisation going and keeping our core values. We all thank Caron for all her work and support.



After 2 years work, we got the support and funding to start the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel. You can read more about the work they have been doing in their report. The Panel helped disabled people's organisations work together to deal with the Coronavirus Pandemic.

We have begun to keep the history of disabled people's organisations and hold the biggest archive of the lives and experiences of disabled people and activism in England. Project worker Linda Marsh, is cataloguing it and we hope the archive will become fully available and accessible to all.

GMCDP continued to run its other projects, including Shaping Our Inclusion, Young Disabled People's Advice and Advocacy project, and Manchester Disabled People's project. These give support, information, advice and help all year round. These projects and the staff who run them gave important support at the start of the pandemic, and helped us carry on working remotely.

I would like to thank all staff who worked for GMCDP during this year, as well as thank our Executive Council and members.

# Archive Development Project

We have got a lot done.

15 boxes of archive material have been catalogued.



5 boxes have been sorted and are waiting to be numbered.

Cataloguing means making a list of what is in the box.



Everything in the box is given its own number.

There is no paid worker now.

Volunteers are working on the archive.

We are looking for more funding (money).

The Archive Steering Group is people who support the project.

This group will carry on supporting the archive.

Archives +

We want to thank the staff in Manchester Central Library's Archives+

They keep the archive safe. They will help the public see our archive.

Around 75 people came to the launch of the GMCDP Archive on 19 June at Manchester Central Library. It was opened by Councillor Tracey Rawlins.



The space was filled with a large display of posters, postcards and photographs from the archive.

There were some of the T-shirts from the Lorraine Gradwell Campaign Clothing Collection.

There were tables with books, reports, newsletters and other documents on them. Some of these could be picked up.

Actress and activist Ali Briggs (who was Freda in Coronation Street) gave a very good speech about herself and how important the archive is.

Martin Pagel spoke about remembering our history. He is one of the people who set up Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People.

A lot of people had a look round Archives+ and the Strong Room in the Central Library.

The project has done other things this year.



Linda went to meetings with the People's History Museum. These are about a whole year of exhibitions and activities about disabled people in 2021.



Some people from GMCDP supported Manchester City Council's event to celebrate International Day of Disabled People on 3 December 2019.

We made 2 displays.

Brian Hilton made 5 postcards to celebrate the day.

A drawing from the second The Accessibles comic was used on a tote bag given away at the event.

GMCDP has also given some support to Judy Hunt, the widow of Paul Hunt.



Judy has written a book called: 'No Limits: The Disabled People's Movement – A Radical History'.

The book is on our website.

We have paid for the book to be in audio, Braille and it will soon be a large print book.

The future still looks bright for this project.

Members of the GMCDP Executive Council, Archive Steering Group and staff in Manchester's Archives+, will carry on making sure the archive is safe. They will make sure we find out more about our history. They will make sure we celebrate our history.

# Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel report



The Panel started in 2019, after 2 years of work.

Rick Burgess and Jane Bevan were employed as Panel Officers.

**ANDY BURNHAM**  
MAYOR OF  
GREATER  
MANCHESTER

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY

We worked with the Greater Manchester Mayor's Office and Greater Manchester Combined Authority and asked for groups from different parts of Greater Manchester to become panel members for 2019 and 2020.

Breakthrough UK and Greater Manchester Centre of Voluntary Organisations looked at the applications. and 14 groups became members.



- Breakthrough UK
- Disability Stockport
- Embrace Wigan & Leigh (co-opted)
- GM Autism Consortium Advisory Committee
- GMCDP (Convenor)
- Manchester Deaf Centre
- Manchester Disabled People's Access Group
- Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts
- Manchester People First
- National Association of Disabled Staff Networks
- National Federation of the Blind UK
- People First Tameside
- Rochdale And District Disability Action Group
- Salford Disability Forum



The panel meets for 3 hours each month in a different part of Greater Manchester. There is food and a Personal Assistant to give general support.

In We elected a Convenor and 2 Co-Chairs who are Michele Scattergood from Breakthrough UK and John Kenny from Disability Stockport.

Between meetings, the 2 panel officers do research and outreach work. They arrange guest speakers. They work with the Convenor and 2 Co-Chairs to sort out what is going to be talked about at the next meeting.

The first meeting of the Panel was on 20 June 2019  
We said:

- We would meet for 3 hours every month in a different area of Greater Manchester.
- We want to be involved in plans as soon as they start, not at the end.
- We want Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Mayor to give disabled people time to understand and take part in making new policy.
- We want the top people at GMCA and the Mayor's office to have training about working with disabled people.

We know that the Panel will not be able to represent every single disabled person in Greater Manchester, but they will use their lived experience about issues.

### Problems we looked at

- Employment
- Disability Hate Crime
- Buses and transport
- Changes to benefits
- The built environment

### Things that we think are important

- Transport and public spaces
- Being equal and the same in all areas
- Housing that is accessible
- Work placements that are right
- Advice and information being accessible
- Independent Living

Between meetings, the 2 panel officers do research and outreach work. They arrange guest speakers. They work with the Convenor and 2 Co-Chairs to sort out what is going to be talked about at the next meeting.

In July 2019, we elected 2 Co-Chairs:

- Michelle Scattergood from Breakthrough UK
- John Kenny from Disability Stockport



### We agreed

Areas of our Workplan  
Terms of Reference  
Codes of Conduct

### We looked at

How we would take action  
Check how we were doing  
Go to other meetings and events



GM Mayor Andy Burnham was at the meeting to give his support.

Each of our monthly meetings had a theme to do with the things we had agreed were the most important.

Each meeting had guests who were important people in the area they worked in. This helped us have a say in how things were being done.



Because of the Coronavirus, we had to stop meeting in person and hold monthly video meeting online using Zoom.

We also had catch up meetings every week.

More information and our full Year One Report is on our website:

[www.gmdisabledpeoplespanel.com](http://www.gmdisabledpeoplespanel.com)

# Make it Happen



## Young Disabled People's Project

We ran workshops and gave 1-to-1 support to young disabled people to take part in things. We made links with other organisations such as the Contact Theatre and Archives+ and looked at things such as accessibility, representation and the history of the disabled people's movement

The young disabled people who took part went to lots of events, festivals and performances and were able to talk about these things. Workshops we held looked at:

- Representation
- Inclusion
- Leadership
- Liberation



People at the workshops talked about why it is important to vote, the need for political representation, and made their own manifestos.

We looked at leadership and resistance and if a leader of disabled people needs to be disabled. And we looked at some leaders who were disabled, such as Chen Guancheng, Gemma Nash, Ola Abu Al Ghaib and Lorraine Gradwell.



The people at the workshop said they had “learned lots” and gave it a thumbs up.

# Manchester Disabled People's Project

Inga Reichelt changed jobs and became part of our Executive Council. Gemma Roberts became our Project Worker.



We ran lots of workshops such as 'Your Vote Matters' to get disabled people in Manchester to vote in the 2019 General Election.

We ran 'Know Your Rights' with the University of Manchester Law Society. This was about how to employ a Personal Assistant and the law about Permitted Work for people who get benefits.

Our session about accessible technology was very popular. We looked at how this can get around barriers for some people, or put barriers in the way of other people. We talked about how these aids can change a person's version of independent living.

We are happy with how we have worked with other groups in the community and got to know them well. We have put on and been to meetings and events and shared information and good ways of working.

We have been working with the People's History Museum and will be able to exhibit things from the Archives+ Project. This will help us tell more people about the history of the disabled people's movement.

We were able to carry on working in the first few weeks of the Coronavirus Lockdown.

## Sorted Project



The Sorted Project works with 15 to 25-year old disabled people who live in Manchester, and their supporters. We give advice and advocacy to help with hardship.

We make things better by increasing personal income, getting better access to mainstream activities, and taking up issues about lack of access with independent living services.

Our work helps young disabled people have more choice, liberty and dignity.



In the last year, we helped young people get the full benefits they were supposed to get. We took up cases where people had not been allowed to take part in mainstream activities.

More disabled students have contacted the project about money, support, and lack of access.

We have given advice and advocacy to 24 new young disabled people and 14 young disabled people we already had contact with.

People can have a number of different issues that put together make things harder for them. This means we cannot just deal with one thing on its own.

We worked with Manchester Mind and Centrepont to share and use draw experiences and knowledge.

We changed our branding to be clearer about what we do, so we can reach more people.

The next 12 months will be hard. There is more need for support, advice and advocacy and we need to make sure things change for young disabled people.

# Shaping Our Inclusion

We have looked at how to develop our sub-groups, get more members and ways our members can be a part of the work GMCDP does.



We helped start the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel. When the Coronavirus Pandemic started, we had to change the way we worked. We started meeting online using Zoom video.

The sub-groups especially (Communications, Membership and Campaigning) worked with staff to make sure the most important things still got done.



The Communications Sub-Group did things such as having accessible information on getting support and services for domestic violence survivors. A lot of the information and ways of getting support were not accessible to disabled women, even though they were 2 times more likely to face domestic violence.

We also worked on documents, such as Do Not Resuscitate instructions, a set of self-advocacy tips-to be used if taken someone is taken to hospital, and hospital passports.





**Thank you to all  
our funders and  
supporters**

**GMCA** GREATER  
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AUTHORITY



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