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Manchester	Tameside
Oldham	Trafford
Rochdale	Wigan

Ageing in Place Spatial Risk Model

An evidence-based approach to tackling inequalities in ageing

Sandaru Weerasinghe, Lead Analyst, GM Ageing Hub, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
sandaru.weerasinghe@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Today's session: what we'll cover



The challenge

Why place and ageing inequalities demand a spatial approach



The approach

What the Spatial Risk Model is and how it was built



In practice

Ten neighbourhoods, nine localities



Impact

What the evidence tells us so far



What's next

Scaling

The challenge: Greater Manchester's ageing story

33.3%

of GM residents are now aged 50+, up from a quarter in 2011

+34%

growth projected in the 75+ population by 2045 (78,000 more residents)

18.8%

of people 55+ report feeling lonely "often" or "always"

250,000

GM residents aged 50+ are living alone

Older residents are also more diverse than ever: 11% of over-50s belong to racially minoritised groups, and many are ageing without children or a partner nearby.

The challenge: why place matters

Health, social and financial inequalities in ageing are experienced **geographically**. Older residents spend more time in their immediate community than any other age group, so where someone lives shapes how well they age.

- Many older residents miss out on support they're entitled to - an estimated 38,400 GM pensioners don't claim Pension Credit
- Concessionary bus pass take-up sits at 56%, well below the 65–75% national rate
- Risks compound geographically - deprivation, poor health, isolation and limited transport often overlap in the same neighbourhoods



“It's not about services being done to us – it's about doing things with us. We've got knowledge, experience and ideas, and now we've got a seat at the table too.”

Mary, resident in Brinnington and Partnership Board member

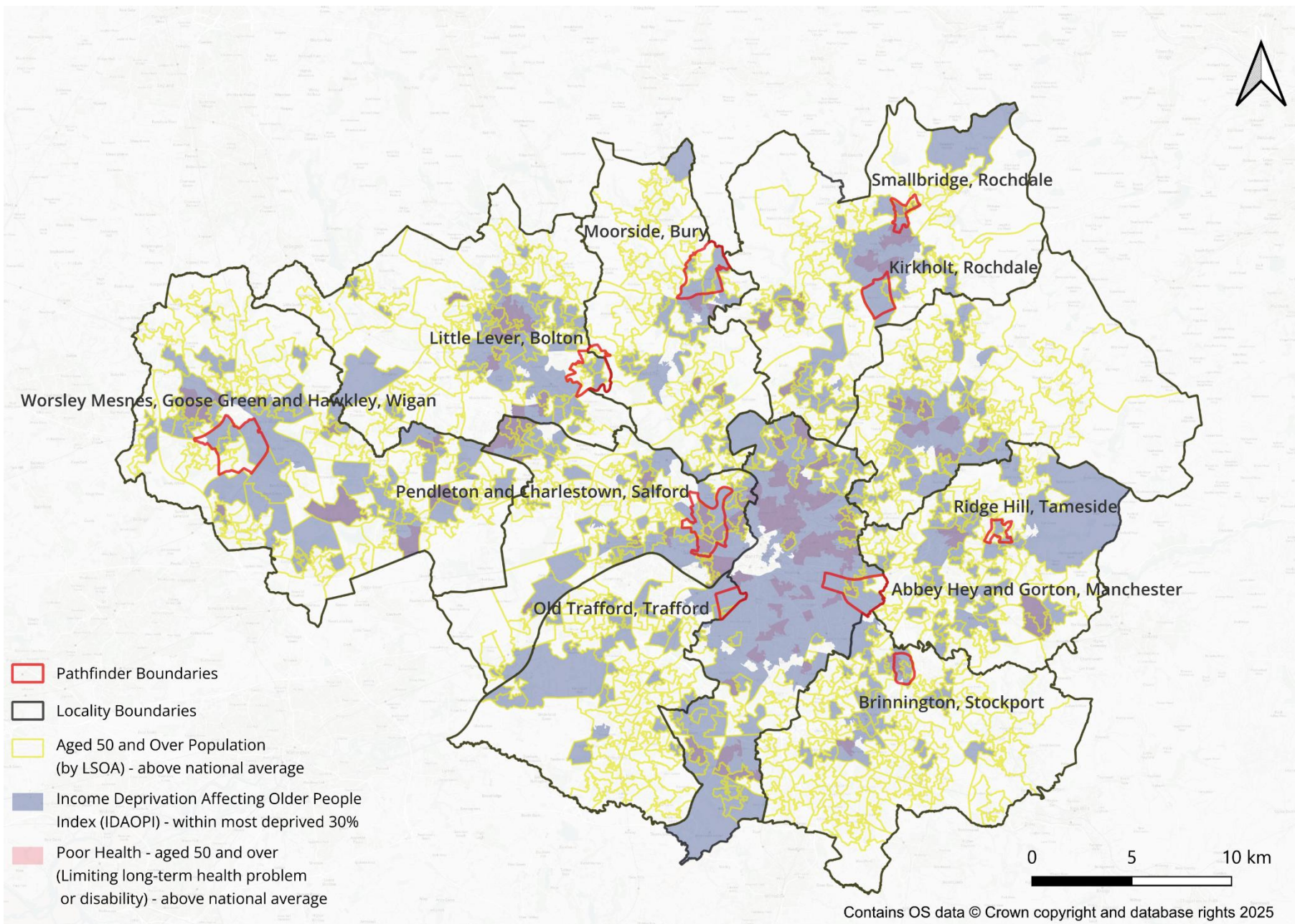
Ageing in Place Pathfinder, 2022-2025

- Tested an **innovative place-based model** to support social connection and improve quality of life in 10 Greater Manchester neighbourhoods.
- **Spatially targeted** to tackle social isolation, health and financial inequalities.
- **Listening to older people** and building on local strengths.
- Partnership led by GMCA working with MMU and range of lead delivery partners.



"Involvement in creating these improvements as part of a community of place have significant potential for supporting health improvements, especially in areas identified as experiencing health inequality."

MMU evaluation in progress.



Map of GM highlighting participating neighbourhoods

The approach: Ageing in Place Spatial Risk Model

Developed collaboratively by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Manchester School of Architecture at Manchester Metropolitan University.

- Integrates spatial, social and demographic data with residents' lived experience
- Identifies where risks to ageing well are concentrated and where they overlap
- Enables targeted, preventative, co-produced interventions rather than one-size-fits-all delivery
- Replicable and updatable - built to scale across Greater Manchester and beyond

BUILT ON



2021 Census & spatial datasets



Community asset mapping



Spatial analysis at neighbourhood (LSOA) level

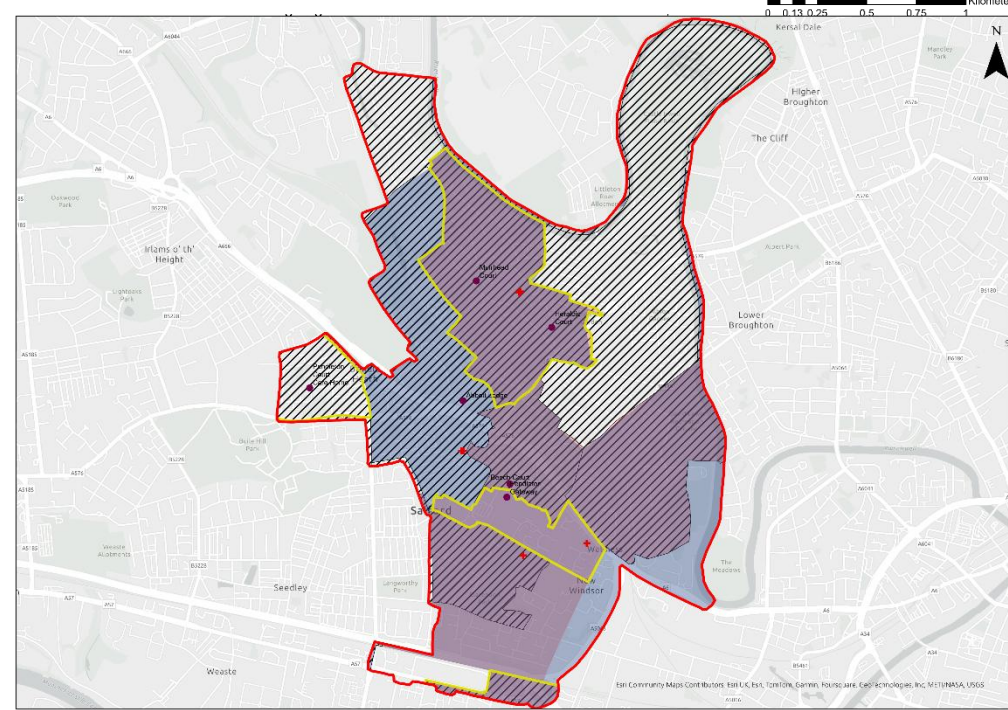
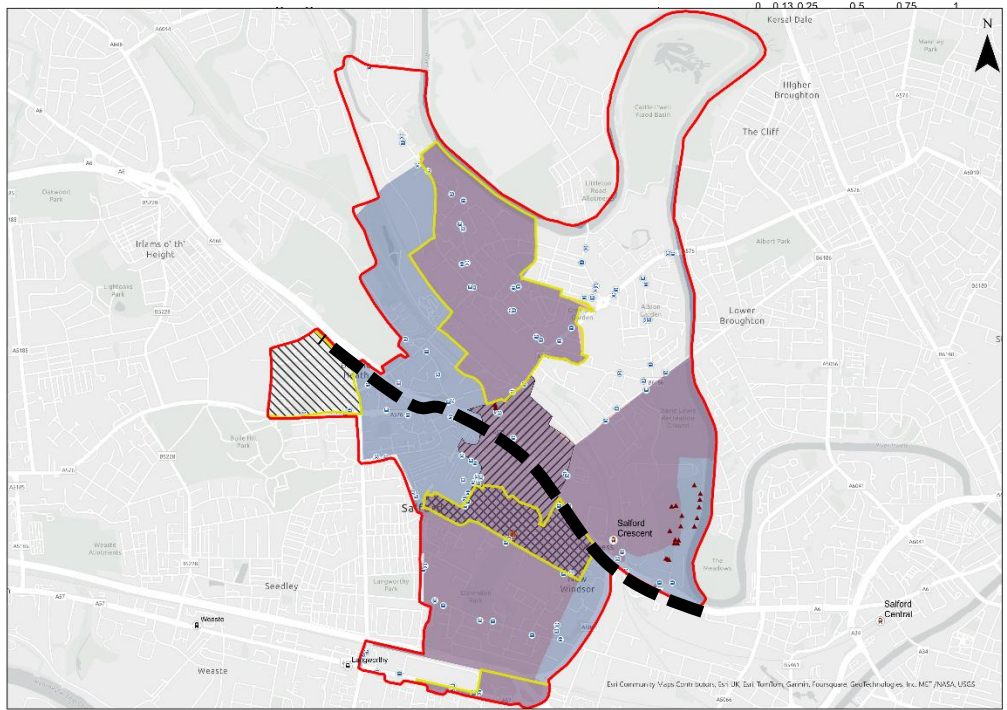
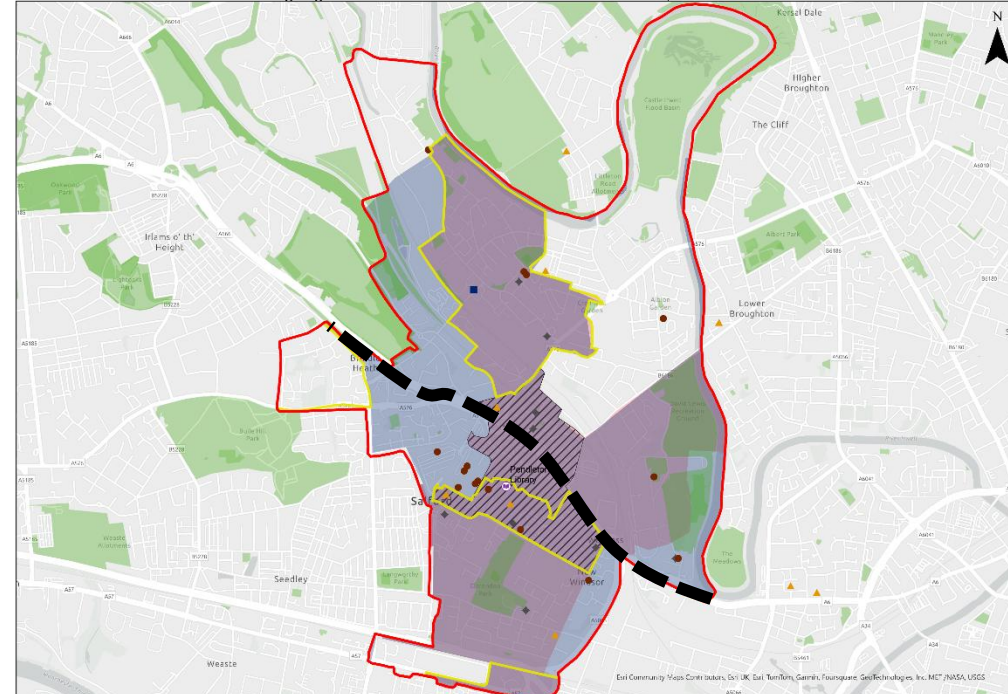
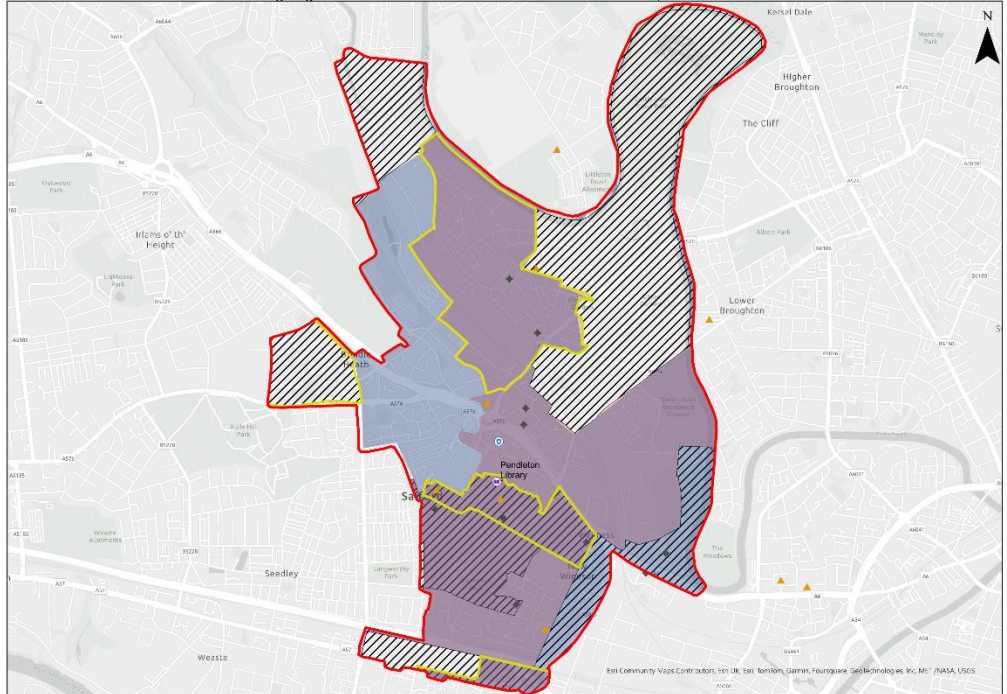


WHO Age-Friendly Cities Framework

The approach: Eight domains, one shared picture of place

The model aligns quality of life risk indicators for residents aged 50+ to the WHO Age-Friendly Cities Framework's eight domains.

Data Layers	WHO Domain(s)	Risk Indicator (aged 50+)
Older residents aged 50+		
Poor health outcomes		Income deprivation affecting older people index (IDAOPi) Limiting long-term health problem or disability
Quality of life risk indicators	Outdoor spaces & buildings; Social participation	Residents living alone
	Respect & social inclusion; Communication & information	Ethnic diversity of residents
	Transport; Civic participation & employment	No access to a car or van Residents working after retirement
	Housing; Community support & health	Unpaid carers



The approach: From numbers to narratives



1

Layer & normalise

Spatial data layers at LSOA level, combining national benchmarks with local distribution patterns



2

Map & cluster

Thematic mapping and spatial clustering reveal where risks overlap



3

Test & refine

Hyper-local user testing with residents and neighbourhood teams refines how the visualisations inform action planning



4

Triangulate

Quantitative outputs are combined with lived experience to tell the story of a place, not just its statistics

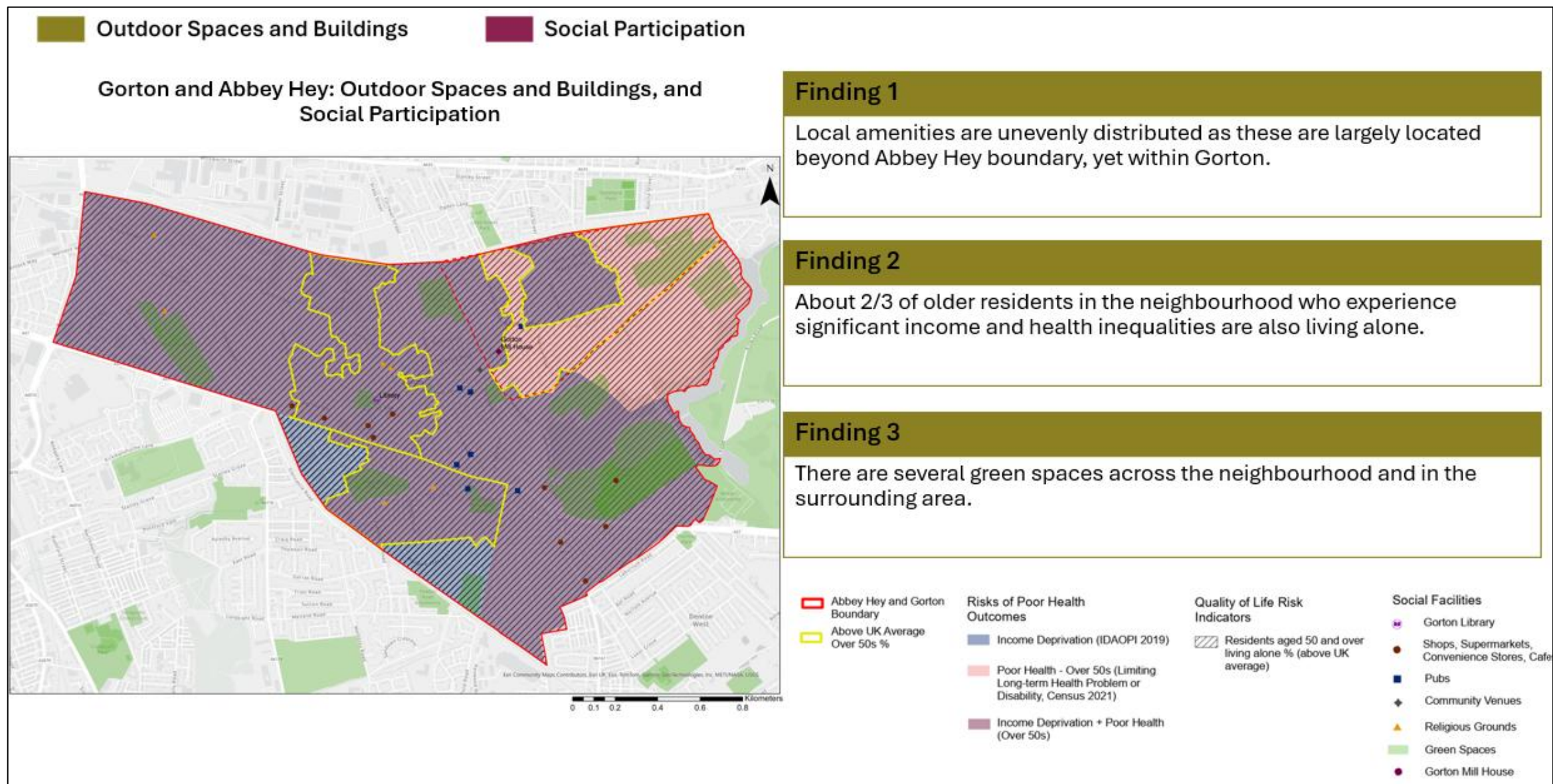
The approach: Looks & feels like in a neighbourhood



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In practice (cont.)..



In practice (cont.)..

Action Plan: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Fly-tipping and litter problem in streets and alleyways.
- Lack of seating / benches for older residents in Abbey Hey area.
- Uneven and poor pavement on Alston Road and Yellow Brick Road cycleway, not good for walking and cycling.
- Hidden and poor steps access to green space 'Cat Valley'.
- Poor maintenance for green space 'The Croft' causing underused.
- Poor maintenance, cleanliness and facilities for Vine Street Park.
- Poor maintenance and inaccessible path with unwanted vegetation at Butterfly Garden and Gorton Heritage Trail.
- Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, lack of police/ PCSOs patrol and lack of street lighting make people feel unsafe to go out alone and at night and access other facilities nearby.
- Older people find it difficult to attend PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings at Gorton Hub and in the evening time.
- New neighbours do not know each other and not sure where are safe places to go.

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- Gorton Mill House, Gorton Central garden
- Groundwork, Manchester City Council
- Green spaces 'The Croft' and 'Cat Valley'
- Vine Street Park, Debdale Park and Reservoirs
- Two cycleways: Yellow Brick Road and Fallowfield Loop for walking and cycling
- Butterfly Garden; Gorton Heritage Trail

Proposals:

- Groundwork to explore greening solutions.
- Increase litter picks, install benches at more visible areas.
- Upkeep of the area - improve Alston Road, Cat Valley steps, The Croft, Vine Street Park, Butterfly Garden and Gorton Heritage Trail.
- Yellow Brick Road improvement - enhancing lighting, resurfacing paths, improving entrances.
- Gorton Central to make their garden to be more age-friendly and accessible with better furniture and facilities.
- Walking project to explore safe routes and develop walking buddies.

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

Completed:

- Litter picks by Groundwork, the Council and housing providers.
- Improved Alston Road and Yellow Brick Road with better and widen pavement, and lighting under the bridge.
- Improved green space The Croft with wildflowers and clean-up.
- Improved Gorton Central garden with accessible raised planters, picnic benches, accessible toilets, new roof.
- Walking project (with TfGM Cycle and Stride Grant) - Abbey Hey Walking Group, Community map with age-friendly routes, Walk Handbook.
- GMP operations with new drone unit to tackle alleged drug dealing and address offroad bikes.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Regular litter picks by community stakeholders.
- Resident-led walking group.
- Install benches at Abbey Hey locations.
- Improve Cat Valley steps, add new play equipment at Vine Street Park, improve Butterfly Garden and Gorton Heritage Trail (in progress).

In practice (cont.)..

Action Plan: Social Participation

What's it like around here?

Issues Raised:

- Lack of social gathering location / social eating locations.
- Absence of activities available in Abbey Hey for older people.
- Lack of knowledge and awareness of what is happening in the area, including activities.
- Lack of activities for men in the neighbourhood.
- Low attendance/ motivation of people to join activities due to worries about attending for the first time.
- Some older people who are living alone feel socially isolated.

How can we make it better?

Opportunities

Existing:

- Gorton Central Community Centre
- Gorton Mill House and café
- Debdale Social and Bowling Club, Men's Shed
- Trinity Baptist Church
- Charlton Bike Deliveries
- Manchester City Council
- Manchester Monastery

Proposals:

- A space for older people for social gathering and eating.
- Provide a variety of activities including intergenerational exchange, men's activities, creating artwork to appreciate social history and older people's stories.
- Develop calendar of activities available for people over 50s in the area.
- Increase men's activity opportunities.
- Volunteers or buddying scheme to overcome the anxiety of residents attending new groups.
- Provide taster sessions to promote attendance.

How can we work together?

Projects and Actions

Completed:

- Increased capability of Gorton Central Community Centre with staff, volunteers, equipment and resources.
- Funded coaches for trips for older people.
- Funded room hire for Debdale winter indoor bowling.
- Celebrating Gorton Cultural Festival.
- Gather, Eat and Move Grant to promote social eating and healthy exercise for over 50s.
- Trained trishaw volunteers by Charlton Bike Deliveries and provided free trishaw rides.

Ongoing/Planned:

- Age-Friendly Space at Gorton Central (until Dec 2025 and beyond subject to additional funding).
- Improved The Aviary room for Men's Shed and Sewing & Upcycling group at Debdale.
- Men's club at Gorton Mill House.
- Ukulele group at The Vine for over 55s.
- Gorton Central updating the activity calendar.
- Over 50s activities at Gorton Hub and Manchester Monastery.

Impact

10

Neighbourhoods, 9 local
authorities

3,850+

Older residents engaged

140+

Community-led projects
delivered

59

Projects sustained long-
term

Moorside (Bury) · Little Lever (Bolton) · Kirkholt & Smallbridge (Rochdale) · Pendleton & Charlestown (Salford) · Abbey Hey & Gorton (Manchester) · Old Trafford (Trafford) · Ridge Hill (Tameside) · Brinnington (Stockport) · Worsley Mesnes, Goose Green, Hawkley Hall (Wigan)

The model directly informed delivery across these Ageing in Place Pathfinder neighbourhoods - now scaling into Live Well in Later Life.

Impact (cont.)



“It’s a safe place, a warm place, it’s a place where you can come and have a brew or a nice meal but it’s where you’ll meet people and friends.”



“Partnerships developed between older residents and local organisations at meaningful local scale can create sustainable solutions that address barriers to health and wellbeing experienced by older people.”



"I have volunteered for over 50 years, working with many programmes I no longer remember... but the Ageing in Place Pathfinder is the first community programme that has actually listened to me."

Mary, Brinnington in Stockport

Scaling up

The model is moving from 10 neighbourhoods into 28 targeted neighbourhoods across Greater Manchester.



MappingGM integration

The Spatial Risk Model is being embedded into MappingGM, Greater Manchester's Combined Authority's geospatial data platform, for wider use



Live Well in Later Life

Embedded within the GM-wide Live Well Blueprint, supporting connection, voice, health, financial resilience and independence



Replicable methodology

Built to be updated and reapplied - a transferable approach other regions can adopt

Enabling an "age-friendly lens" on wider policy

Our Greater Manchester Age-friendly Strategy Vision: "By 2034, Greater Manchester is a great place to grow old. Age-friendly is business as usual, a thread running through our devolution, reform, economy, transport, public health and cultural strategies (and others)."



Civic participation

Enabling the voice, lived experience and participation of people in mid and later life across regional policy making.



Pride in Place

Providing platform and opportunities for inclusion of diverse older people in shaping the future of their neighbourhoods.



Neighbourhood health

Supporting engagement and relationship building between residents and stakeholders to shape health creation and preventative health services.

Thank you!