



# Gorton Health Matters

*Report by Sally Devine and Hollie Louise Walsh, Healthy Me Healthy Communities CiC*

## **Executive Summary**

Funded by NIHR, Gorton Health Matters was a 10-month project co-produced with Vocal (Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust), Healthy Me Healthy Communities CiC and The James Lind Alliance. We adopted a priority setting partnership methodology, drawing together over 200 health and care professionals and residents most affected by poverty, inequalities and social exclusion. The project culminated in a day of lively discussion and the production of the top 10 health priorities for Gorton & Abbey Hey.

## **Project Aims**

The aim of the project was to co-deliver and evaluate a Community Priority Setting Partnership (CPSP) on health and care research priorities in Central/East Manchester. This was underpinned by an evidence base in research which demonstrates the link between power sharing, good science and reducing inequalities.

The project was a follow up to the successful Cancer and Us: Community Conversations project delivered in partnership with Healthy Me Healthy Communities CiC, Vocal and the LGBT Foundation. This project won the prize for Educational Impact at the Greater Manchester Cancer Awards 2024.

## **Method - what did we do and how did we do it?**

We recruited a diverse range of steering group members which include representatives from housing associations, arts organisations, BAME led groups, and healthcare professionals.

The steering group met regularly, working together to set the direction of the project and to develop engagement approaches appropriate to the Gorton community.

From this, we carried out consultation in two phases of outreach. We did this in different diverse settings based on insights from the steering group. We worked collaboratively with residents to theme the priorities from the outreach.

In the first phase of outreach we carried out surveys in 18 locations.

Out of 600 responses, residents then voted to choose the priorities which they felt were most important to them.

The project culminated in a consensus building workshop, attended by over 30 residents, people with lived experience and healthcare professionals. A day of lively discussion, debate and democracy led to the top 10 priorities.

## Outcomes & Impact

*The project successfully led to the co-creation of the top 10 health priorities for Gorton & Abbey Hey. These were:*

1. How does a lack of employment, job opportunities and job security impact the health and wellbeing of people in Gorton?
2. Can holistic options like lifestyle changes instead of medication benefit people with illnesses?
3. Why is it difficult to get appointments at GP surgeries in Gorton?
4. Do community events and volunteers improve loneliness/social isolation and wellbeing and is there a need for more specific groups/activities for people to come together in Gorton? (disability, illnesses, multigenerational, mental health)
5. How is damp and mould impacting the health of Gorton residents and what are the long term effects for home owners and renters?
6. What are paid and unpaid carer's lived experiences in Gorton regarding access to rest and available support for them?
7. How is violence and antisocial behaviour affecting the well-being of people in Gorton?
8. What is the emotional impact of residents losing their family homes due to reasons such as bedroom tax and housing costs
9. How does the use of online booking services affect residents who cannot use or do not have access to computers?
10. Does eating food received through food banks and community grocers impact a person's health?

These will be disseminated and shared with researchers to set the future agenda.

