

Supporting carers. Strengthening communities. Changing how care works.

directors of
adass
adult social services
Greater Manchester



Image: Centre for Ageing Better

Across Greater Manchester, hundreds of thousands of unpaid carers support family members, friends and neighbours every day – often with little recognition or support, especially at moments of crisis like hospital admission or discharge. And through Shared Lives, people are being supported in ordinary homes and communities – building real relationships that offer connection, choice and a genuine alternative to traditional care. [sharedlivesgm.info]

Through just under £2 million funding from the Department for Health & Social Care's Accelerating Reform Fund, partners across Greater Manchester have come together to test new, practical ways of doing things differently.

These projects focused on two priorities that matter deeply to people and communities:

Identifying carers in hospital

Making sure carers are identified, listened to and supported when someone they care for is leaving hospital – with dedicated roles embedded in hospitals and stronger links to community support.

Stronger, more visible Shared Lives support

Expanding and promoting Shared Lives as a community-based alternative to traditional care, including new preventative support for people living with dementia through the Live More pilots.

Across all the work, one principle ran through everything: things work when systems are more timely, preventative and shaped by lived experience.

We have evaluated the funded activity to recognise what has been tested, what has been learned, and what is possible when health, social care, councils, VCSE partners and communities work together. It also makes valuable recommendations as to how we can continue to build a better system for the future.

Shared Lives and Dementia

Andy and Matt

Andy, who is supported through the Oldham Shared Lives Scheme, has been spending meaningful time with his Shared Lives carer, Matt, as part of the Live More pilot.

Andy and Matt are a brilliant match. They quickly discovered a shared passion for history and transport, and Andy was keen to revisit some of the interests from his working life, as he previously worked in public transport as a mechanic. To build on this shared enthusiasm, they planned a trip to the Museum of Transport Greater Manchester.

They spent the day exploring old vehicles, swapping stories, laughing together, and enjoying a coffee while chatting about Andy's memories from his years in the transport world. By the end of the trip, they were already planning where to go next.

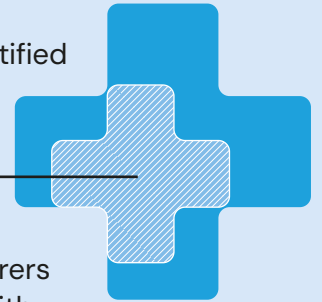


Identifying carers in

Carer intervention (carer identification & support)

3,102

carers identified
in hospital

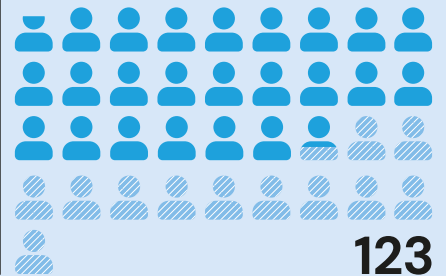


1,869

of those carers
provided with
personalised support & guidance
by project staff/volunteers

368

people referred for statutory
carers assessment



123


statutory carers assessments
completed by project staff

98

people known to be in
receipt of care package or
personal budget following
project intervention

in hospital settings – what was achieved


Outreach/engagement/training


 **877** public-facing outreach & engagement events/sessions delivered

100% of staff/volunteers in hospitals that are able to identify unpaid carers

9,863 conversations with members of the public about being a carer and carer support services, as part of outreach & engagement activity (not discharge conversations)

100% of staff with improved ability to assess unpaid carers' needs after having completed awareness training delivered by project

689 staff/volunteers submitted feedback on training 

1,702 staff/volunteers trained/upskilled in carer awareness 

Carer outcomes

 **381** carers provided feedback on experience with project via follow up conversation or questionnaire

21 in-depth carer or professional stakeholder impact stories provided this quarter

100% of carers report that the support they received had a positive impact on their wellbeing

75% of carers felt included in the discharge planning process

100% of carers recommend the support during discharge to friends/family

Coproduction

 **319**

activities engaging people with lived experience to inform project design/delivery/evaluation

*Source: 'GM Live More Programme: Mid-Point Report', Shared Lives Plus, January 2026, p.20

Greater Manchester's commitment to unpaid carers has been made possible by a values driven and passionate partnership across our diverse region, and we'd like to acknowledge the following:



Scan this QR code to read the full Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) evaluation:

