

PROJECT IDEA: AGE-FRIENDLY DESIGN AUDITS

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The GM Ageing Hub is currently developing an Age-Friendly Design Guide to be shared across Greater Manchester (an idea that was also developed for Ambition for Ageing). This project would use the Age-Friendly Design Guide as a basis for volunteers to carry out audits on different spaces in Greater Manchester to check how age-friendly they are and to recommend changes that could be made to make places more age-friendly.



WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?

Many of the barriers that prevent people from leaving the home as they get older are due to the physical environment around them. If an area, outdoor space or building etc. is designed well for older people and those with accessibility issues, it will be a much better place for all to use. By using the guidance to audit places we can let planners and designers know more about what they need to think about with regard to design in the future and influence them to think about all members of the community when designing new spaces.

WHO IS IT TARGETED AT?

Residents wanting to make where they live more age-friendly and easier to navigate
Planners
Housing providers
Urban Designers and Architects
Decision makers

HOW WOULD WE KNOW IF IT'S BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Facilities, buildings and spaces are better used in neighbourhoods
Planning guidance reflects age-friendly design principles

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT AGE-FRIENDLY?

It focuses on making the physical environment better for older residents and other members of the community who find it difficult to get around where they live
It will lead to more places being accessible to more people than previously
It encourages more people with influence on planning and urban design to think about age-friendly design

CAN AMBITION FOR AGEING INVEST IN THIS PROJECT?

Yes. It meets many of the AfA project idea selection criteria. In particular: the project has the potential to take place across GM; could potentially exist beyond Ambition for Ageing funding; could contribute towards making GM more age-friendly; and could help to reduce social isolation by reducing barriers that prevent individuals from accessing their local physical environments.