BUILDING BACK BETTER:
DEVELOPING AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES POST COVID-19

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1. Population ageing and urbanisation
2. Developing age-friendly cities and communities (AFCC)
3. COVID-19: Challenges for the AFCC movement
4. COVID-19 and AFCC: How can we build back better?
5. COVID-19 and AFCC: Developing a research agenda
   (Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group)
1. POPULATION AGEING AND URBANISATION

More than 500m people 65+ live in cities

58% of all older people

More than half, 289m, live in low- and middle-income countries:

- More than 57 million people 65+ live in cities in Latin America
- More than 23 million people 65+ live in African cities
- Almost 250 million people 65+ live in cities in Asia

People aged over 60 are the fastest-growing cohort of urban populations

(Percentage based on information from HelpAge International, 2016)
2. DEVELOPING AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

(WHO, 2007)
2. DEVELOPING AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Network launch: 2010
- 300 members: 2015
- Over 1000 members: 2020

(World Health Organization, 2018)
2. DEVELOPING AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

(Who, 2018)
3. CHALLENGES FOR AGE-FRIENDLY MOVEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Where you live matters greatly for the quality of life in old age

- **Health inequalities** between **poor and rich neighbourhoods** are increasing (Marmott Review, 2020)
- Causal relationship between **neighbourhood deprivation** and **social exclusion in later life** (Prattley, Buffel et al., 2020)
- Nearly three quarters of a million people over 75 and over live in ‘**non decent homes**’—a higher proportion than any other age group (Centre for Ageing Better, 2020)

It matters also for whether you are protected from Covid-19

- People (of all ages) living in **more deprived areas** in England have experienced COVID mortality rates more than double those living in less deprived areas (ONS, 2020)
- **COVID-19 related death rate** in England and Wales **rises by 25% in a local authority with twice the average number of ethnic minority people** (Nazroo and Becares, 2020)
3. CHALLENGES FOR AGE-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

“AGEING IN PLACE”? or “PRISONERS OF SPACE”? 

Age-friendly initiatives most urgently needed in areas with the least infrastructure in place to develop such initiatives.
4. COVID-19 AND AFCC: HOW CAN WE BUILD BACK BETTER?

1. Focus on and tackle **housing and neighbourhood deprivation**
2. Develop **place-based recovery** strategies - **partnerships** beyond silos
   - Prioritise working *with* older people: **Co-production**
3. Tackle **health inequalities** & underlying social and economic inequalities
4. Change **narratives of ageing** - Promote **intergenerational** connections
5. Promote **digital inclusion** and new ways to maintain/provide **offline social connections** and support
6. Develop **tailored job-seekers support** - financial security
7. Link **high quality data** for **better science and policy**
ENSURING SOCIAL and SPATIAL JUSTICE MUST BE AT THE CORE OF POST COVID-19 RECOVERY PLANNING
5. COVID-19 RELATED RESEARCH MUARG

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5. COVID-19 RELATED RESEARCH MUARG: AIMS

1. To work with community organisations and activists in selected areas, examining **responses to Covid-19 and strategies for contacting and supporting older people**.

2. To examine, longitudinally, the **impact of “social distancing” measures on experiences of everyday life among diverse groups of older people from marginalised communities**.

3. To generate to **evidence to assist local, regional, and national policies** which aim to increase support for older people and organisations working on their behalf.

https://www.micra.manchester.ac.uk/research/projects-and-groups/muarg/
• **BLOG: Prisoners of space: How the COVID-19 lockdown is deepening inequalities in ageing**

• **BLOG: Examining the impact of social distancing on older adults**


Q & A

Thank you for your attention