

GM Policy Hub Update | July 2022

Welcome to our July 2022 GM Policy Hub update. The [GM Policy Hub](#) is Policy@Manchester's initiative to connect academics with policymakers in Greater Manchester to address regional policy agendas.

Our Hub updates provide information about our current and upcoming work that we believe will be of interest to you. In this update, we highlight:

- [The latest findings from #BeeWell](#)
- [Two recent visits from GM MPs](#)
- [Our new report on strengthening participation in Greater Manchester](#)

If you are interested in learning more about any of the research featured in this update, please get in touch with [Terri Lucas](#).

#BeeWell finds LGBT+ inequalities in adolescent wellbeing

In autumn 2021, nearly 40,000 young people from across Greater Manchester were surveyed to ask about their wellbeing, and the [#BeeWell](#) research team have released some of their initial findings:

- Only **7% of boys** report a high level of emotional difficulties, compared with **22% of girls** and **50% of non-binary young people**.
- Gay, lesbian, bi and pansexual young people scored, on average, **less than 5 out of 10** on our life satisfaction measure, compared to **around 7 out of 10** for their heterosexual peers.

In a recent [Policy@Manchester blog](#) Professor Neil Humphrey, academic lead for #BeeWell, reflects on this analysis of wellbeing inequalities for young people across Greater Manchester, and considers how they should be addressed.

GM MPs Mike Kane and James Daly visit the University

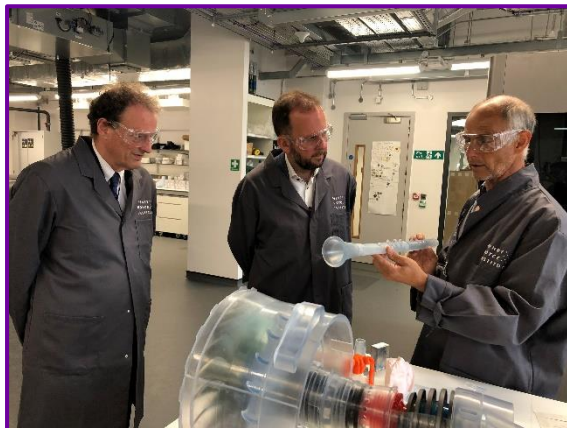
On Friday 24 June, Policy@Manchester hosted:

- Wythenshawe and Sale East MP Mike Kane; and
- Bury North MP James Daly.

Mike Kane met Alice Larkin and Chris Jones from the Tyndall Centre, to discuss research on the decarbonisation of aviation and shipping, and Ian Mell, to discuss green infrastructure. The visit concluded with a tour of the Manchester Institute for Biotechnology.



James Daly visited The Henry Royce Institute, meeting Professor Philip Withers and Professor Richard Jones to discuss innovation and how new technology can deliver global solutions.



“The Henry Royce Institute is an incredible example of how our region is tackling some of the most pressing global challenges. Professor Phil Withers and his team have shown how innovation can deliver powerful economic and societal impact. As policymakers, we can work collaboratively on solutions and inspire the next generation of thinkers. I’m grateful to Policy@Manchester for shining a spotlight on this crucial work.”

James Daly MP

Strengthening participation and people power in Greater Manchester

To support the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission's recommendation to pivot towards people power and the Greater Manchester Strategy commitment to achieving equity and tackling inequality through a distributed leadership model, Policy@Manchester worked with GMCA to organise a workshop earlier this year.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders to consider the principles which should inform participation, to map existing participation structures and processes and to identify good practice. Attendees from across all ten boroughs in Greater Manchester included executive members with responsibility for equalities, Chairs from the Equality Panels, stakeholders from the voluntary sector, and public service officers.

We have now released a [report written by Professor Francesca Gains and Professor Liz Richardson](#), the lead academics on this project. The report draws on discussions within Greater Manchester and examples of best practice elsewhere. It sets out key principles to underpin greater pluralism in policymaking, maps out the different ways in which participation can take place, and makes suggestions for strengthening participation.

Current and upcoming areas of work

We are currently working on policy activities and resources on the following themes.

- [Energy Futures](#)
- [On Space](#)
- [Too close to the sun: the health benefits and economic case for banning sunbeds](#)
- [The role of R&D in the levelling up agenda](#)

In June, Angela Rayner MP and Andrew Gwynne MP have cited our academics in parliamentary questions to DCMS and DHSC.

Connect with us

We have put this content in a format that we hope you will find easy to use, but please do feedback to us on this, and let us know what information you would like to see in future. If you do not want to receive these emails in future, please let us know by emailing terri.lucas@manchester.ac.uk

You can also sign up to our [weekly Policy@Manchester newsletter](#) to be kept up to date with new blogs and publications, providing academic expertise and insight on pressing policy issues, as well as contributions to evidence sessions, upcoming events, and more.