



MANCHESTER URBAN AGEING RESEARCH GROUP (MUARG)

CO-PRODUCING RESEARCH WITH COMMUNITIES TO
CREATE FAIRER, MORE INCLUSIVE PLACES



About Us

The Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group (MUARG) explores the relationship between population ageing and urban change, the defining demographic trends of our time. Our world-leading group brings together researchers from diverse disciplines to work in partnership with older people, communities, and policymakers, co-producing research that supports inclusive, age-friendly cities. MUARG's work is grounded in social justice and aims to tackle the inequalities that shape how people age in urban environments both locally and globally.

Our Aim

MUARG's aim is to transform how ageing in urban environments is understood and addressed through co-produced, community-driven research.

Our Objectives

- Conduct cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research on urban ageing.
- Collaborate with older people and communities using participatory methods.
- Influence policy to promote inclusive, age-friendly cities.
- Address structural inequalities and promote social justice.
- Build global partnerships to advance the age-friendly movement.

What We Do

- Ageing in Place: Exploring how homes and neighbourhoods shape later life.
- Tackling Inequalities: Addressing exclusion and injustice in urban ageing.
- Innovative Methods: Pioneering creative, participatory approaches.
- Supporting Social Infrastructure: Enhancing connection, belonging, and support.
- Global Collaborations: Advancing age-friendly cities worldwide.

“Deeds, not words. Manchester has never waited for change—it has led it.”

Prof. Tine Buffel, MUARG Director

Why It Matters

As cities grow and change, they must work for people of all ages. Yet many urban environments fail to meet older people's needs—especially those from low-income or marginalised communities. Rising inequalities, inadequate housing, and declining support systems are leaving older people increasingly isolated, in poor health, and socially excluded. In the UK, people in the most deprived areas live up to 19 fewer healthy years than those in wealthier areas, and nearly a quarter of older people's homes are unsafe, with the resulting hospitalisations costing the NHS over £600 million annually. Such inequalities are not inevitable but are the result of policy choices in the planning and design of urban environments.



MUARG's research tackles these challenges head-on by co-producing research with older people and designing solutions to address the issues faced by these communities, showing that creating age-friendly cities can benefit everyone. Join us in working to ensure that urban environments support wellbeing, dignity, and opportunity for all generations.

"Where you grow old matters greatly for how you grow older."

Prof. Tine Buffel, MUARG Director

Our Projects and Collaborations

MUARG leads a wide range of research projects locally, nationally, and internationally, addressing the diverse experiences of ageing in urban environments. Here are a few examples of our current work:

- **Ageing in Place:** Investigates how diverse older populations experience urbanisation and ageing across seven global cities, using a spatial justice lens to inform age-friendly policy.
- **Uncertain Futures:** Explores the intersectional inequalities facing women over 50 in relation to work through a unique collaboration between art, research, and community voices.
- **Co-Creating Age-Friendly Housing:** Works with older people and housing providers in Greater Manchester to co-design neighbourhood-based initiatives that support healthy, inclusive ageing in place.
- **Co-developing Interdisciplinary Research on Healthy Ageing and Age-Friendly Urban Regeneration:** Generating policy-relevant evidence on how urban regeneration in North Manchester can promote 'age-friendly' environments.



"Ensuring that the 'new urban age' produces age-friendly communities is an urgent priority for research and policy."

Paul McGarry, Assistant Director, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)

Key funders

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Get Involved

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 Conversations on Urban Ageing Podcast



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