

# LIVE WELL MAKE ART

GM's Arts, Health and Social Movement network

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## Our vision

We want a healthier Greater Manchester, where all its people can share the benefits of engaging in and enjoying the arts and creative activities with each other. We want our streets, neighbourhoods and communities to be vibrant places to live

## GM's bid to 'Great Places'

Great Places' is an Arts Council England initiative which aims to pilot new approaches that enable cultural, community and civic organisations to work more closely together. The Greater Manchester Joint Authority has been short-listed for inclusion in the initiative and is in the process of submitting a bid, which includes building on arts and health work in the city region, paying attention to the principles of arts and health as a social movement. The successful pilot areas are likely to be announced in March 2017.

An important aim in GM's bid is to make stronger connections between the arts sector (voluntary and professional arts, and cultural venues), the health sector and people living and working in Greater Manchester. At the end of the Great Places initiative, the intention is that arts activity would be a core element of health planning across GM for the future

As part of our thinking around Great Places, Live Well Make Art is working on an idea to hold structured workshops in local areas, inviting diverse groups of people to talk together about arts and health as a social movement and encourage collective action—small and large-scale. If you think this might work in your area, why not get in touch?

***"It is a very brave thing to do, bringing people together to find common goals, brilliant"***

***'We need a different way of thinking how people can organize. We need to trust and let go.'***

***'Walking up Oxford Road with a headful of ideas and a bellyful of fire'***

***Comments from our last Live Well Make Art event.***

***We hope to hold the next one in April or May 2017***

## BUILDING OUR MAILING-LIST

We are sending this up-date to everyone who attended our last two events and to people who sent apologies. But there are many many more organisations and individuals across Greater Manchester who have an interest in arts and health. Please do forward the newsletter to others to help build the network.

If you would like to be put on the mailing-list, or want to make sure a colleague receives our information, please email:

**[alan.higgins@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:alan.higgins@oldham.gov.uk)**

## 100 Moments

At Live Well Make Art's second seminar, participants came up with two projects which could help us move forward with thinking about how to take ideas about arts and health as a social movement into practical activity.

A small group led by Cartwheel Arts co-ordinated a brilliant WordPress site, highlighting some of the great practice already taking place across Greater Manchester. Check it out on

## In the Neighbourhood

A second project, co-ordinated by Nick Ponsillo and Bella Starling, asked the question—'Would people living in a neighbourhood be interested in a project that linked communities and arts and health practitioners together to help reduce loneliness and isolation?'

Work is going on in Tameside, Stockport and Whalley Range and Chorlton and there will be a sharing event on Tuesday 21st March.

Live Well Make Art hopes to be able to build on learning from these two projects and from the resources they produce.



We've made a start on mapping arts and health in GM. We're just about to add more organisations in Tameside, like Storybox, Wildways and Loxley House's Men in Sheds. Come along to the next Live Well Make Art event and help us add more!