

## **Bury Older People's Network (BOPN)**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

### **Bury Unitarian Church**

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Attending | Jo Mawdsley (chair); David Barnes (Bury VCFA – action notes); Joan Abbott (resident); Stephanie Boyd (Bury Council); Gill James (Redvales); Chris Darrock (U3A Moving on Together); Carol Kemp (resident); Hilary McColl (resident); Amy McSherry (Bury Hospice); Trish Ribchester (Greenmount Cuppa n Chat); Gabby Royle (Bury Hospice); Shyamal K. Sarkar (resident); Pauline Smith (GMOPN, Bury LGBTQ+ Forum, Pride in Ageing); Julie Southworth (Greenmount Village C&C); Ania Stark-Ketcher (Age UK); Shirley Waller (Healthwatch Bury); Jan Wiczowski; Brian Williams (Creative Living Veterans Group); Deb Yates (Bury Council) |
| Apologies | Jane Lees; Rhoda Myers; Jean Pound; Gillian Stainthorpe                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

### **Bury Hospice**

Gabrielle Royle and Amy McSherry from Bury Hospice gave a very interesting presentation on the work of the Hospice. This is a summary of some of the information they provided.

- The Hospice is aiming to bring the community into the hospice as well as reach out in the community.
- The Hospice offers support in the six towns in Bury Council area. In 2026 it celebrates 35 years of operation having started in Radcliffe in 1991.
- The Hospice is a 12-bed facility but currently only 8 beds are funded.
- There are 6 community staff with 80 patients on caseload, including a monitoring service offering 2-hour respite every 2 weeks.
- 25% of service recipients have dementia-related conditions.
- COPD, Parkinsons and heart failure are other common conditions.
- A Palliative care helpline is open to the public.

- The Hospice works with the Christie Hospital; for sessions on 'Bloods closer to home' and chemotherapy sessions on Thursdays.
- Complimentary therapy service offers head massage, reflexology, raiki, and scar tissue relief.
- Bereavement services include 1-to-1 counselling and Walk & Talk every Tuesday morning. Regular drop-in sessions at Tottington Library and Tesco's Bury.
- Sunflower group for 5 to 11 year-olds, meets four times a year. 'Worry monsters' and a care package are provided for all participants. 1 in 29 children under-16 have lost a parent or sibling.
- Hospice café brings people into the Hospice. The Japanese garden won gold at the RHS show and was donated to the hospice.
- Awareness sessions are planned for community leaders.
- Annual budget is £4.8m, with 17% from the NHS, so the hospice has to raise £4m.
- Seven shops from Prestwich to Ramsbottom and a new furniture shop due to open. The Radcliffe warehouse (back of Asda) is open to the public.
- The network thanked Gabby and Amy for the excellent presentation and immediate feedback was that the borough needs more respite care; Age UK Bury can offer support on fundraising; in the recent past the Art Gallery has had an exhibition around end of life issues, so Gabby will follow that up.

### **Social Care Futures (SCF)**

Jo presented an update on her work with Social Care Futures as follows:

- SCF is a national campaigning organisation; Jo has chosen to do her first individual project (i.e. the survey) at a local level.
- It was established in 2018 by convenors with experience of negative aspects of social care.



- It is volunteer-led, within a holding company, In Control which works for an inclusive society.
- Great support revives our sense of hope and purpose, gaining control over our lives and connecting with the things most important to us.
- Negative stereotypes are avoided, such as 'vulnerable', 'frail', 'system in crisis'.
- SCF works closely with IMPACT (Improving Adult Care Together) based at Birmingham University which has co-production at its heart and brings together academics, policy makers and practitioners to achieve long term cultural change.
- Jo is a national influencer with SCF and the convenors are regularly invited to national policy forums including Dame Louise Casey's independent commission.
- Jo led a discussion about the issues raised here and the feedback included that Bury is well placed to locally take forward best policy and practice with the Ageing Well Strategy; healthspan can be a better construct than lifespan; it is disappointing that preventative services tend to be cut first.

## **Updates**

### **AGEING IN PLACE**

5 additional areas have been identified for hubs. An extended 3-year funding budget has been provided by Bury Council and Persona. Specific venues for the 5 areas have yet to be identified.

### **HEALTHWATCH**

Healthwatch will be funded until at least March 2026, so it is business as usual at the moment. It is a statutory function so it requires a parliamentary debate to authorise the disbandment of Healthwatches. There has been an increase in the number of people coming into the drop-ins. Healthwatch has office space for meetings.



AGE UK BURY



The Age UK national campaign, Silver Sunday will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

#### BURY CANCER CENTRE

The centre has an open day on each last Friday of the month, 10.30am to 2.30pm at the Bolton Road centre.

#### **Next meetings of BOPN**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Bury Unitarian Church. It will be a single agenda item with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) for their early engagement programme in respect of the re-build of the Bury Interchange.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Bury Unitarian Church. Agenda to follow.