

Bury Older People's Network (BOPN)

13th May 2026

Bury Unitarian Church

Attending	Jo Mawdsley (chair); David Barnes (Bury VCFA – action notes); Joan Abbott (resident); Ste Greason (Persona); Gill James (resident); Carol Kemp (resident); Masumma Khan (Carers Hub); Hilary McColl (resident); John Pearcey (Dignifying Dementia); Annemari Poldkivi (Healthwatch); Pauline Smith (resident); Ania Stark-Ketcher (Age UK Bury); Mike Standbridge (resident); Jacqui Waite (Bury Council); Shirley Waller (resident); Jan Wiczowski (resident);
Apologies	Chris Darrock; Moira Gryner; Jean Pound; Dr Sarkar; Julie Southworth; Barbara Stafford;

Matters Arising

Bury Directory issues have been resolved.

Community Safety will be re-scheduled for later in the year for progress update.

Healthwatch

Annemari Poldkivi (Research and Public Participation Coordinator) attended to provide an update. Annemari kindly provided the power point slides distributed with these notes.

Healthwatch Bury is one of 152 Healthwatch branches in England. There is also a Healthwatch England. Healthwatch is independent of the NHS and provides a channel for representation of patient's interests. As such it functions as a critical friend of the NHS and to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Recent reports by Healthwatch Bury include on the subject of Day Care and Hospital A&E.



Healthwatch Bury has two full time workers and two part time workers. The board of trustees is made up of 6 members who meet quarterly. There are also 10 volunteers who assist with research.

Proposals for the future of Healthwatch were announced last year. Current funding is in place until April 2027. Healthwatch Bury also has a 12-month contract to run Healthwatch Stockport.

Healthwatch Bury has drop-ins for public on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am to 2pm. Concerns are escalated into the NHS decision making.

Each year there is an aim to carry out at least three pieces of focused work. This year these are:

- i. Armed Forces veterans
- ii. District nursing
- iii. GM Prostate Cancer (report about to be published)
- iv. Collaborative with Bury VCFA on neurological conditions

Discussion ensued:

- Noted that Healthwatch will be missed if it is abolished. The current proposal to transfer its functions into local authorities was regarded as potentially undermining its independence.
- The report on dementia services was noted as a very good example that probably wouldn't have been written without Healthwatch independence.
- Noted that some improvements in dementia care appear to have been in line with the report's findings.
- The Council's extra care strategy was also assisted by Healthwatch's report.
- Bury Council's resident groups may offer some alternative in Healthwatch's absence.

Primary healthcare

The members discussed various aspects of primary healthcare in Bury in anticipation of the attendance at a future meeting of a GM primary healthcare representative.

- Healthchecks in Bury do not to appear to be offered with any consistency. Most members have not been offered a Healthcheck
- Members considered how health services may better raise awareness about healthchecks. Word of mouth and social media do not work well for older people.
- People should be given information about healthchecks when attending for other appointments.
- Ordering prescriptions on the NHS app is a poor experience.
- Some concern that the NHS in general is past its best. For example, 30 years ago it was recognisably better than the health systems in other European countries but no longer.
- Also recognised that in the first few years of the NHS, there was a baby boom, which is now reflected in a large older population
- Pharmacists have an increasing role in routine healthcare but provision re prescriptions is patchy. Some members receive very good service.
- Age UK Bury has an open digital inclusion session on Mondays at the Jubilee Centre.
- Live Well Places & Spaces may offer an opportunity to bring healthcare services closer to people (Ridgehill estate in Tameside mentioned as a good example).
- An example in Bury is the service on PSA tests provided at Bury FC.
- Online messaging about healthcare is not always effective with older people and physical message boards still have merit. Cafés and buses would be good locations too.

Any other Business

1. Masumma Khan attend from Bury Carers Hub and explained her new post to promote co-production of carers support. Launch taking place at Parson's Lane meeting room tomorrow. This is a service for all carers age 18 plus.
2. Pauline Smith highlighted Age Without Limits Day on 10th June. A film produced by Bury Met will be released and shown at Olive's Kitchen and the Green Community Café. It is hoped that the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester will attend both events.
3. Ania Stark-Ketcher of Age UK Bury presented several up and coming events at the Jubilee Centre.
 - Programme of entertainment including Dolly Parton tribute on 15th May; cabaret on 23rd May (Tony Squirrel); Folk dancing on 5th June; Tina Turner tribute on 15th July.
 - The café is now open on Saturdays
 - On 19th May the Co Op will be running a pick and mix dementia awareness raising session.
4. Joanna Mawdsley gave an update on TfGM issues including:
 - Only 54% of eligible residents in Bury have a concessionary pass
 - Bury does not have brilliant bus services but is not too badly served
 - Improved services to Fairfield Hospital are being considered
 - 471 service levels have improved
 - 135-night service is running
 - Cross boundary services, especially to Salford, need improvement
5. Jan Wiczowski mentioned the following:
 - Prestwich Clough Day is this Sunday 17th May



- Bury Cancer Centre will have a fund-raising open day on 30th May, 10am to 4pm
- Request for update on progress with the new Whitefield centre

ACTION: David Barnes to ask Lorna Wilson to provide this update

6. David Barnes asked members to review the current BOPN leaflet as a new version is planned. Photograph taken for illustration on front. Content for reverse to be agreed

ACTION: David Barnes to draft content for members' views.

Next meetings of BOPN

Wednesday 10th June 2026 at Bury Unitarian Church

Wednesday 8th July 2026 at Bury Unitarian Church