

North Manchester Inclusion Partnership

Why?

- The North Manchester Inclusion Partnership was formed in 2021 to address the detrimental health impact that covid was having on the Black African and Caribbean community, and the low uptake in the covid vaccination. The aim was to build trust in the community, build connections, share key messages and try and improve health and wellbeing outcomes to those from minority backgrounds.
- The Partnership was created and is chaired by HDC's Claire Duffy and Dave Bradley who cover two neighbourhoods in north Manchester.
- Since forming, the group has grown in strength with a core group of partners who meet on a fortnightly basis. We continually review our aims and remain flexible to accommodate the needs of the communities in north Manchester. We work in a true collaboration style being open to new members, supporting each other, listening to communities, bringing people together and being proactive.



Africa Day 2022

- In January 2022 the group decided to hold an event to celebrate Africa Day (May 2022). The event would provide an opportunity for people in North Manchester to have a vibrant celebration, share their culture, learn about African culture, and provide us with an opportunity to build further relationships in the local area and start to address issues around community cohesion.
- The core funding was awarded from the We ♥ MCR Charity. Additional funding was sourced from members of the North Manchester Inclusion Partnership including Winning Hearts and Minds and North Manchester Community Partnership.
- The event took place at the Simpson Memorial Hall in Moston on 21st May 2022 and involved over 30 community organisations, local businesses, services and voluntary sector organisations
- Over 640 people attended the day which included: an African fashion show, African drumming, educational sessions about African culture, African food, flag art display from local schools, feedback stations and much more.
- The whole day was captured on video by members of the partnership Fresh RB <https://youtu.be/szJvY11nDA>



Outcomes and Learnings



- Over 640 people attend the event from a wide range of ages – toddlers to over 60s
- Most attendees were from North Manchester, but people came from as far as Salford, Trafford, Oldham, Rochdale and other areas in Greater Manchester.
- The event was very multicultural and engaged many different communities.
- **Community cohesion** - *"In 14 years patrolling this area this is the first time I've seen an event that brings so many different people together"* - **Moston PCSO**.
"I've lived in Moston for 35 years and welcomed all the changes. This is the sort of event I've waited for! A total celebration of our Moston African Community – vibrant, welcoming. Thanks for making it possible and let's have more!" **Moston resident**
- Connections made between the organisations involved have led to referrals for business's, funding opportunities and future projects.
- Three local schools were involved in the flag art competition across all year groups – many more entries than we expected. Many from these schools attended on the day and pointed out their designs! We are in the process of involving more local schools to design the partnership logo.
- Local restaurant vouchers gave people the chance to go and get to know local businesses.
- Authentic African catering allowed people to try foods they have not tried before.
- People were interacting throughout the event. We heard conversations about African countries happening between families, discussing heritage, history and connections with Africa.
- Access to funding – having someone with capacity to apply for external funding to allow things such as this to happen.

We continue to meet on a fortnightly basis, welcoming more members to the partnership. We continue to work together to tackle inequalities faced by local people and build trust in the community.