

Get GM Working Plan: Stakeholder Briefing Note – August 2025

Background

- The Get GM Working Plan outlines our **system wide vision for an integrated employment, skills and health system**, including a **Live Well approach to employment support** to better support our residents and reflecting **our growth ambitions** and the important role of employers.
- The Get GM Working Plan **aligns with existing plans and strategies**, including the [Greater Manchester Strategy \(GMS\)](#) and will align with the **forthcoming local growth plan**, and the outcomes are taken from existing plans and strategies within the GM system, including the integrated settlement outcomes.
- The plan is to be used by **all system partners** including GMCA, LAs, VCFSE, NHS, DWP, DFE and others to:
 - develop **shared understanding** of issues,
 - **manage and align** current provision
 - identify **collective action**
 - support better **integration of services**
 - set **longer term direction and strategy for future investments** targeting labour market challenges.
- The plan covers a **10-year period** and outlines **priority actions for the next 18-24 months** alongside steps towards achieving longer-term objectives.
- As part of the government’s commitments in the [Get Britain Working White Paper](#), local areas are required to develop a local Get Britain Working Plan to detail how they will take a whole system approach to tackling **labour market participation (employment, unemployment and economic inactivity) and progression at work (earnings and job quality) to achieve an 80% employment rate and grow the economy.**

Summary of the Plan

The Get GM Working Plan analyses the current labour market, articulates the drivers and causes of labour market challenges and makes an assessment of the current system; the plan then sets out a vision for a whole systems approach to health, skills, work and wider social support. Finally the plan outlines the systems change and priority and longer-term actions needed by our stakeholders to get there. The plan is supported by a number of appendices, including a data pack which supports the labour market analysis, an outcomes framework and an overview of engagement, governance and role of our stakeholders.

The content of the plan is centred around four key themes that are essential for GM’s ambition to achieve an 80% employment rate **and align with our broader GMS priorities:**

- **Prevention, Live Well and working differently with our residents:** The plan aims to build on systemic changes explored in the “Economic Inactivity” Trailblazer to develop a Live Well approach to employment and skills to work differently for our residents. This includes further integration across statutory services, health, and the Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector, shifting systems and services towards community power and prevention. This vision includes the New Jobs and Careers Service, which will be integrated into our Live Well model.
- **Growth and the important role of employers:** To achieve an 80% employment rate, we need to drive forward inclusive economic growth that provides good employment opportunities for our residents. The plan highlights the crucial role of employers and how the system can support them to drive inclusive economic growth. The plan consolidates activities around employer engagement, skills for work and growth, and support for residents to sustain and progress in work. It also reflects opportunities in our frontier sectors and growth locations to drive productivity.
- **Health and the interdependencies of good health and good work:** It is widely known that good health is an enabler of good work, and good work supports good health. To tackle increasing rates of

“economic inactivity” driven by poor health, health needs to become fully integrated within the skills, work, and wider social support system to support people to move closer towards, move into, and remain within work. The plan sets out the case for health integration and actions to move us forward.

- **System conditions including devolution, commissioning and governance:** GM has a strong history of partnership working across key stakeholders, underpinned by formal governance approaches and supported by coterminous boundaries across local government and health. GM is at the forefront of British devolution and these unique system conditions need to be maximised, along with making better use of data, digital, and research capabilities to achieve an 80% employment rate. The plan sets out how we can use our unique system conditions in GM to drive change and supports our case for deeper devolution in GM, building on work from the integrated settlement prevention demonstrator.

Development of the Plan

- As a system-wide plan, stakeholder input has been vital for both development and ensuring system-wide buy-in for the actions outlined. Our approach has been underpinned by co-production, involving people with lived experience, including our GM equalities panels and a wide range of stakeholders including employers, local authorities, VCFSE organisations, DWP and NHS colleagues and education, training and employment support providers.
- The Get GM Working Plan has and will be progressed through GMCA, DWP and NHS governance, and each of these governance structures include our key stakeholders. The plan will be monitored on a live running basis via these governance routes. Future iterations of the plan will follow the same process, and we anticipate an update on progress against the plan will be shared annually, with the full plan being reviewed at key intervals.

Alignment with the [Greater Manchester Strategy \(GMS\)](#)

- The GMS was launched in July 2025 setting a ten-year ambition of a thriving city region where everyone can live a good life. Providing clear line of sight to high quality jobs with a commitment to remove barriers to good employment and raise GM’s employment rate to 80%. The GMS will be underpinned by a system wide delivery plan – as part of developing this GMCA will be engaging with EWS partners over the next one to two months and this process will continue as we move into delivery so it’s not a one off process. We will also ensure that the extensive engagement that has taken place with stakeholders as part of the Get GM Working Plan development is fed in.

Next Steps



If you would like to review the draft plan and provide feedback by 22nd August, please contact:

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