

## **Capitalising on existing networks and infrastructure to create opportunities for open-minded and broader integration in Greater Manchester**

The Social Care Provider Network in Greater Manchester is a group of representatives from the hundreds of care providers across the area. They come together to discuss matters concerning care providers and represent them in feeding into ICS plans across the area.

soon expanded to include the Chief Executive of a small care home group in Greater Manchester. They were able to add further expertise and insights into the realities of the situation.

Ongoing conversations about how to embed similar approaches to integration are in their early stages, but are an encouraging sign that adult social care is recognised as a critical part of the wider portfolio of support across Greater Manchester.

### **Demonstrate and communicate meaningful action**

Greater Manchester ICS have identified that d people can make by contributing their time, ideas and expertise is crucial for broadening and sustaining engagement.

For example, Greater Manchester ICS recently launched the pilot of a complex needs support programme for care homes. This initiative was established in response to feedback from adult social care providers that more support was needed in this area. Providers were directly engaged to attend this workshop, which fostered positive discussions about training needs. Thanks to having been supported to take part in the initial workshop, the group was made up of a wider group of provider voices than ordinarily represent the sector. Many of them took the subsequent opportunities to form a steering group and dedicated project group an outcome of which was the development of a specification for people with advanced dementia.

With each development of the complex needs pilot project, Greater Manchester ICS have been feeding back updates and progress to the providers involved. This meant that they could see that their plans and insights were being channelled into tangible actions. It is also of vital importance to the success of integrated working. When individuals and organisations can see action being taken, and understand what their involvement can lead to, stronger

time, this should allow for great connection and communication between different types of services.

Greater Manchester ICS is now focusing on trying to establish a formal structure for communicating these plans and actions both ways across the system. They want to ensure that insights and feedback fro

-to-day business of care. This has been achieved to some degree at place level, through initiatives such as Local Authority Provider Forums and now hopes to expand to system-level thinking.