



## Christmas Party & Launch of Weaste Social Activities 2017-18

### Ambition for Ageing Salford

The Weaste Social group formed with a shared concern about isolation in older people, having experienced loneliness at points in their own lives. Through AfA funding they hosted a Summer Celebration and invited **109 local older people**. The initial idea was to invite people living in other Great Places Housing Group properties over the age of 50, which were identified with the support of the scheme warden.

The summer celebration was a success, with 49 older people attending. The group are keen to continue to keep in touch with the older people who attended by hosting a Christmas Party and also provide another opportunity for those who were invited to the summer event, to attend. They hope this will enable and encourage local older people to feel less lonely and continue to build relationships with other people who live locally.

The group **co-designed** the invites and posters and planned the afternoon, including the entertainment, venue, date and time, and **volunteered** to distribute posters to local premises, including the post office, community rooms, GP surgeries and churches.

Following the Christmas Party they plan to launch the Weaste Social Activities Event in January 2018. The group wish to invite and involve those who have attended to help plan and develop social events and opportunities for older people to meet, make new friends and feel less lonely by asking them for feedback in a small questionnaire:

- What opportunities would you like to see for older people to socialise locally?
- Where would you like to meet?
- How often would you like to meet?
- Would you need transport to get there?
- Any other comments?

These findings will help the group to plan future social events and activities for older people based on what they want and how often they would like to meet.

Once the group have this information they plan to apply for AfA funding to enable identified social events and activities to take place in Weaste & Seedley and Langworthy over a twelve month period, which will form the 'Weaste Social Activities Project'.

