**Public Toilet Provision in Salford**

**Brief Summary**

The Salford Forum of Older People have conducted a piece of scrutiny work on public toilet provision. This area was chosen due to the reported decline in public toilet facilities in recent years and the effect this has on the health and wellbeing of older people in terms of social isolation.

The Forum have looked at issues such as adequate information and signage for available facilities, the level and quality of provision, access for disabilities, and the functioning of the National Key Scheme. They conducted area visits and communicated with different officials in Salford to ascertain responsibility and future plans for public toilets in Salford.

They found that public toilet provision was limited and inconsistent and that there was not clear designation of the responsibility for public toilets. Often it was found that public toilets did exist, but were unavailable or of poor quality.

The main recommendations to arise from this work are that the Local Authority consider government guidance around public toilets, that a Community Toilet Scheme should be adopted which involves businesses being given a financial incentive to open their facilities to the public, and that more and better information on public facilities should be available and targeted at certain groups. Also, there was a recommendation to extend the National Key Scheme and that certain areas such as parks and railway stations should be prioritised in public toilet provision.

If you would like to request a copy of the report or find out more please contact Kathleen Sheridan at Age Concern Salford on 0161 788 7300 or kathleen.sheridan@ageconcernsalford.org.uk