

Handout 3:

Problem statements for group exercise

Statement 1

“I don’t own a car, and I struggle to get around and visit friends and families. Buses are the only option available to me, but they are difficult to use. To get to the hospital for an appointment means I must take three different buses. I never know what time they are due to arrive, and when they do come, the bus driver is often impatient with me and starts moving before I’ve even been able to find a seat. The bus is often crowded, and I sometimes have to stand for the entire journey.”

Statement 2

“I sometimes feel lonely and isolated staying at home all day. There is a small public square down the street, but the pavements around it are broken and so I’m afraid of falling. When I do get to the square, there are not enough places to sit, and there is nothing really there for me to do. I feel that some activities would bring the community together and give an opportunity to get to know my neighbours. But the local authority just doesn’t prioritise those spaces at all.”

Statement 3

“The city is changing so quickly around me, but I never get asked what I think, or have the opportunity to participate in decision-making. They are building a new shopping centre at the end of the road and making the road wider and I’m worried about all the extra traffic it will generate. I don’t really feel a part of the community when I don’t have any Voice in how it changes in the future.”