

GM VCSE Infrastructure Development Winter Update 2023/24

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GREATER MANCHESTER **LEVELLING UP**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

The Greater Manchester VCSE Infrastructure Development Programme is funded through the The UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and aims to improve the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) locality infrastructure support for community activity, by building on the strengths of locality infrastructure, identifying gaps and best practice to accelerate developments where they are needed. The programme runs until March 2025, and is being delivered by the partnership of Local Infrastructure Organisations (and other organisations with reach) across all 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Priority areas of activity include Membership Models and Promotion; Website and Information Strategies, Social Enterprise and Social Investment; Voice and Influence; and Training and Development.

This briefing will update you on the activity that has taken place from October - December 2023, and outline some of the plans for the next 3 months.

Oldham

In Oldham work has been undertaken with the local Volunteering Team to develop a suite of training for volunteers and Volunteer Managers. This training offer is due to launch in the next 3 months which will include a range of learning opportunities in a range of formats to support members to develop their work and volunteer force and meet organisational challenges.

Building on the Organisational Development review which took place in autumn, priorities have now been identified to develop networks that correspond with findings of local VCSE sectors needs and gaps.

Wigan

Wigan have launched their new Dispersed Leadership Model with colleagues from Wigan Council, Groundwork, and Wigan and Leigh Community Charity. 14 leaders from across Wigan have attended 3 initial meetings so far.

The new leaders have so far been focusing on developing a Code of Conduct and Memo of Understanding for the operation of the Leadership Group. Next the Leader Group will be undertaking a mapping of the leaders' skills and existing networks. This will support defining roles within the group and support collaboration at a neighbourhood and Greater Manchester level.

BOLTON CVS VOICE & INFLUENCE SPACES



Bolton

Bolton CVS Voice and Influence spaces have undergone a Terms of Reference review, which has resulted in some of these being moved from networking into a strategic and influencing space. This will continue over the next 3 months as more spaces shift their focus to become more strategic. This may include setting up a Strategic Voice and Influence Reps Network and Equalities Forum to hear under-represented voices in the sector.

Bolton CVS staff have started NLP training as part of developing their leadership and advocacy offer to help become more aware of unconscious biases within local infrastructure. This will continue to further develop staff understanding.

Salford

Following a recruitment period last quarter, Salford CVS have successfully appointed a Social Enterprise Development Worker due to start in January 2024.

They have engaged with 44 social enterprises over the autumn period, providing support for funding, governance, membership, premises, trading income, CIC / charity conversion, networking, monitoring and evaluation, social value, and social investment referrals. For example, they have supported Creativity Tree CIC with set up support resulting in CIC registration.

Salford CVS have continued to promote social investment opportunities and also supported the Salford Sup event in December.

Salford based social enterprises, Women with Wings CIC and Princes Park Garden Centre, were awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service.



**The King's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups

Salford

Tameside

Action Together in Tameside have also been working with the local Volunteering Team to develop a suite of training for volunteers and Volunteer Managers. This training offer is due to launch in the next 3 months which will include a range of learning opportunities in a range of formats to support members to develop their work and volunteer force and meet organisational challenges.

Building on the Organisational Development review which took place in autumn, priorities have now been identified to develop networks that correspond with findings of local VCSE sectors needs and gaps. They will also be reviewing their development offer based on capacity.



A Weaste and Seedley Social Club event following support from Salford CVS

Rochdale

In Rochdale, Community Development Workers have been allocated to neighbourhoods and are based in community spaces. Following this Action Together are planning a focus on increasing membership from small and grassroots groups to be launched over the next 3 months.

They have also represented the VCSE Sector on the Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale People Group, and are part of the subgroup developing Leadership programme for Health & Social Care sector. They also ran a development session for the Local Care Organisation board focused on their strategic relationship with the VCFSE sector. They will continue work on this to make sure the VCFSE sector is embedded into the new Locality Plan and Local Care Organisation business plan over the next quarter.

Trafford

Thrive Trafford are continuing to develop their support offer for local social enterprises and have initiated an initial contacts database for their proposed Trafford Social Enterprise Network (TSEN). They are also exploring how they can better promote and increase awareness of social investment with the VCFSE sector alongside local social investors such as GMCVO and developing partnerships with regional social investors such as Charity Bank.

Thrive Trafford has also successfully supported the Trafford Community Collective and local Community Hubs in securing Lottery funding for a local volunteering model, and delivery work on this has now commenced. This will lead to the development of a new volunteering website for Trafford which will be integrated with the Thrive Trafford service offer. In addition, Thrive is continuing to compile a VCFSE Infrastructure Support Offer Matrix with partners which will ensure clearer signposting of support for VCFSEs including redesign the Thrive Trafford website.



Bury

The capacity building team at Bury VCFA have supported groups across a range of thematic areas including governance support, bid checking and grant finder searches, volunteer management good practice and policy and procedure support over the autumn period.

They have also facilitated the co-design of a VCSE model for Living Well with three VCSE mental health providers. Bury VCFA also continue to support the local VCSE sector. For example, they have supported the Board of Bury Faith Forum to deliver their first in person AGM since the pandemic. They will continue this support to the sector through involvement in the Civic Leadership Programme over the next 3 months.

Bury VCFA also hosted their AGM in November 2023 to highlight the work of the sector.



Stockport

Sector3 Stockport have successfully recruited a VCFSE Family Hub Engagement Lead to build capacity within the VCSFE sector to enable organisations to accept referrals and funded contracts from the Local Authority and Public Health. They plan to further support this offer through recruiting a Partnership and Engagement Lead and Funding Development Lead in January 2024.

They also hosted The Proper Good Business Conference, bringing together over 60 Corporate businesses, social enterprises, public services, and the voluntary sector to further Stockport's ambition to strengthen cross-sector collaboration. They plan to increase cross sector collaboration through the Volunteer Hub offer over the next quarter.



Image from Sector3's Proper Good Business Conference

Manchester

Manchester have continued to implement their new membership model with high demand for support. Macc have focused on developing self-serve resources and will be completing technology upgrades to support this over the next three months.

After a recruitment period last quarter, they have successfully appointed a new Policy and Influence Manager. There has been a focus on revision to advocacy communications work and the launch of "What Macc Stands For", a key messages programme on policy priority topics. Macc plans to rollout new communications next quarter with further work on recruitment of VCSE representatives.



To learn more about our work with VCSE Infrastructure partners, or to discuss how we can work together, please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you.



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