

State of the VCSE Sector 2017

Bury summary

Introduction

This document is based on the State of the VCSE Sector 2017 report, which is a Greater Manchester wide research project. The key objective of the research is to provide an overview of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE*) sector both within Bury and Greater Manchester as a whole.

It was undertaken by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University and commissioned by 10GM**, GMCVO*** and Stockport Council. The research involved a web-based survey of organisations. Unfortunately we did not have an infrastructure partner able to support this research at a locality level and so the response rate from Bury organisations was low - providing limited local data for analysis. This should be considered when looking at the results.

However the responses are sufficient to allow some comparisons with the responses received from Bury for our previous study in 2013. This document sets out what we are able to conclude about the current state of the VCSE sector in Bury in order to inform future local developments.

To read the report for Greater Manchester and the other locality reports please visit:

www.10gm.org.uk or www.gmcvo.org.uk



How many organisations are there?

There are an estimated **1,135 organisations** working in the VCSE sector in Bury who are involved in many areas of activity.

There are an estimated 15,890 organisations working across the VCSE sector in Greater Manchester and the vast majority (90%) are micro or small organisations (operating on an income less than £10,000 per year).

What are the main areas of work within the VCSE sector in Bury?

The three areas of work with the biggest proportion of organisations working in them are:

Health &
Wellbeing

Community
Development

Sport &
Leisure

*When we talk about the VCSE sector we mean voluntary organisations, community groups, the community work of faith groups, and those social enterprises where there is a wider accountability to the public via a board of trustees or a membership and profits will be reinvested in their social purpose.

**10GM is a joint venture between Greater Manchester VCSE sector local infrastructure organisations.

***GMCVO (Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation) is the VCSE support and development organisation covering the Greater Manchester city region.

What is the economic value of the VCSE sector in Bury?

Due to the low response rate by local VCSE organisations we cannot give a robust estimate from this survey. Trends across Greater Manchester suggest that income is likely to have fluctuated over the past three years ending with a small reduction in income (around 3%) in 2016/17.

Where does the VCSE sector receive its funding from?

Based on the respondents to the survey we can gain some insight into where the VCSE sector in Bury receive their funding:



- ⇒ **86%** of respondents receive funding from non-public sector sources
- ⇒ **36%** of organisations have an active earned-income strategy

How sustainable is the VCSE sector in Bury?

Due to the limited data received we cannot produce robust local information in this report. Trends across Greater Manchester indicate that around 23% of organisations have an expenditure greater than their income; this is a smaller figure than in 2013. However, there are now a significant number of organisations in Greater Manchester (46%) that have less than three months running costs in reserves.

Volunteering in Bury

Volunteering remains at the heart of sector activity across Greater Manchester. Our 2017 GM report highlights 461,800 volunteers donated 1.1 million hours of their time last year, valued at contributing £973 million to the City-region's economy. Unfortunately, we cannot produce a robust estimate for volunteer numbers in Bury alone, due to limited survey responses.

How well does the VCSE sector in Bury work in partnership?

Respondents to the recent survey indicated that:



- ⇒ **88%** have direct dealings with Bury Council
- ⇒ **89%** have direct dealings with other VCSE organisations
- ⇒ **17%** are members of a VCSE consortium
- ⇒ Only **6%** have a “great” or “fair amount” of contact with private businesses, indicating an area for further work and support

Moving forward:



- ⇒ **23%** of respondents are planning to work more closely with private businesses
- ⇒ **50%** of respondents either are or have plans to work more closely with another VCSE sector organisation
- ⇒ **43%** of respondents either are working more closely with public sector organisations or have plans to do so

For more information about the GM State of the VCSE Sector 2017 report, please contact:

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