

Greater Manchester VCSE Localities Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Activity

Highlights

June 2023

The following slides provide highlights of the VCSE equalities work being undertaken in localities, identified by Local VCSE Infrastructure Organisations.

The information was collated in June 2023, with contributions sought from each of the ten Greater Manchester Local VCSE Infrastructure Organisation (or alternative)

This not designed to give a full account of the activity happening in each locality, but rather, provide a flavour of the types of work happening at the moment.

- The Health Inequalities Project was a collaboration between Bolton's GP Federation and Bolton CVS, aimed at addressing health inequalities within communities across the borough. It involved supporting voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) groups to host health clinics in community settings. As well as offering Covid vaccinations in areas where uptake had previously been low, these clinics were a chance for people to receive health checks and key public health messages, in a non-clinical, more familiar environment. For some, we discovered that this was their first contact with the NHS since before the pandemic
- Bolton CVS is currently creating an Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
- Bolton CVS is soon to introduce an Equalities Action Panel to our Voice & Influence spaces. This is an evolution of our previous Equalities Target Action Group, which ended when CCG funding ceased.

- Bury VCFA facilitates / supports **Bury Older People's Network, Bury Community Support Network. (Food Network) and Bury Faith Forum**, ensuring each network is linked up to the wider Bury infrastructure and decision makers
- Bury VCFA chairs the Community Cohesion group of Community Safety Partnership. Priorities: Inclusion calendar and coordinated communications, eg **Black History Month, Bury Pride, Interfaith Week; Hate Crime Awareness training and showcasing VCSE cohesion**
- Bury VCFA has delivered funding via **Household Support Fund** on behalf of Bury Council. The funding provides cost of living investments to VCSE sector groups supporting residents
- Bury VCFA facilitated conversations on the **Bury Anti-Poverty Strategy** with: Bury Older People's Network, Bury VCSE Leadership Group, VCSE Children's Partnership, Bury Community Support Network (food banks/pantries)
- Bury VCFA employs 0.4 **LGBT Development Worker** post to support development of **LGBT Forum** and engagement with partners including VCSE sector, schools, colleges and partners around inclusive practice
- **Diversity in volunteering** is a key area of focus for Bury VCFA, with the development of a new Volunteering Strategy which focuses on diversity of volunteering opportunities

- **GM Older People's Network** includes **GM Older People Equality Panel** and **GM Older People Mental Health network**, includes working groups on health and social care, housing and transport. Current campaigns include **"Don't Brush it Under the Carpet"** created to raise awareness of self-harm in older people across Greater Manchester, supporting older residents who may be depressed and alone and guide them to the right support for them, while raising awareness of the issue of self-harm amongst carers, family members and health professionals.
- **Sanctuary Seekers** – evolved from our work on responding to Afghanistan and Ukraine crises and now providing a regular space for VCSE organisations working with people seeking sanctuary in GM. As well as **practical collaboration** (e.g. around supporting people in asylum hotels), there is shared work around **linking up with national campaigns, local influencing and storytelling**. Recent achievements include commissioned work to **record the voices of people who have arrived from Afghanistan and Ukraine** – the latter being a piece commissioned by Macc and delivered by Europaia.
- **Inclusive Communications Internship** – later this month Macc is hosting our second **paid internship who will develop communications campaigns to celebrate community activities which promote inclusion**. Last year we built themed communications (calendar, stories, videos and history pieces) around South Asian Heritage Month, Pride and Black History Month – these will be updated and added to this year alongside new themes. (This is part of our **anti-racism strategy** - which has also driven a **review of our language and communications, data capture, participation policy, recruitment approach and staff development**).
- **Community Health Equity** – a group of **"sounding boards"** for VCSE organisations working in certain **"population health priority communities"**. Generally working well – and a good model - but does sometimes fall into that trap of the learning only staying in equalities spaces, not being pushed as learning / challenge for the wider system.
- **Manchester Disability Inclusion Partnership** – well established and recently revised structure which leads on **embedding Manchester's All Age Disability Strategy** across the Council and Health.

- **Oldham's Poverty Action Network** (supported by Action Together) has a delegated budget of £50,000 to enable activity to tackle poverty (such as through the OCAN referral tool) and to codesign longer-term solutions that tackle the root causes of poverty. The poverty network brings VCSFE, the public sector and people currently experiencing poverty together. The lived experience practitioner is paid for their time, we have an external facilitator who supports their involvement and the community orgs who are the Foundation Members of the network are resourced for their leadership.
- Action Together (alongside other local partners) has been **supporting Develop Glodwick (DG)** as an 'active partnership' leading for all social change for the neighbourhood across a number of issues or causes important to that area including where physical activity & moving more can be a contributing factor. Through funding via 10GM, we have connected the VRU funding to fund community-led solutions to tackle violence and added to the capacity of the community orgs that lead Develop Glodwick partnership.
- The **Women's Network** in Oldham (supported by Action Together) has secured £100,000 in funding from the community safety partnership to **join up the provision and provide additional support to women experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence**. Action Together applied on behalf of the Oldham VCFSE Women's Network and secured an additional £25,000 in funding to **enhance the Domestic Abuse Support** projects delivered by 5 of the network members, each of the organisations received £5,000 uplift to support their work with women experiencing domestic abuse.
- Action Together has secured and delivered **Household Support Funding** to fund VCFSE-led activity to support residents in food and energy crisis. Round 3 (Sept 22-March 23) was £300,000 delivered by 21 VCFSE sector orgs, (10 by and for BAME groups/orgs inc, South Asian, Black African, and Roma communities, 1 older people's org, 3 C&YP orgs, 1 disabilities org, 5 orgs supporting low socio-economic groups of mixed demographic). This funding was for direct support for residents with emergency food (especially culturally appropriate support) and also included vouchers or cash support for household goods, energy bills, essential items, transport fees etc. This includes specific support for people with no recourse to public funds. Round 4 a further £300,000 is about to go live.

- Action Together is working with the **council of mosques** and has **invested £20,000 to build their capacity to develop relationships with the health system** as one route to improving access to screening/immunisation. We have also funded the **Refugee and Asylum** seeker network to co-produce solutions to better support local people facing **barriers to accessing health and care services**.
- Rochdale's **Economic Support Network** (support by Action Together) and working with Rochdale Council has secured resources to fund **culturally appropriate welfare advice delivered by local community partners**. The community groups that are the Foundation Members of the network are resourced for their leadership and time as part of the network.
- We have recently secured resources to fund the VCFSE to deliver **home-from-hospital** support and prevention activity. There will be a targeted fund within this to specifically fund **culturally appropriate solutions delivered by local community organisations** that provide support to people experiencing racism.
- Through the **Digi-tec consortium**, Action Together has funded community organisations that work with **people experiencing racism or ageism to access digital equipment and provide support to reduce digital exclusion**, a further £50,000 has been identified and is currently being developed with local partners
- The **Racial Inequality Learning Programme** is a **small grants fund** that Action Together is managing to develop an anti-racism learning programme for the VCFSE sector, thanks to investment from the former CCG. Groups have been invited to apply to deliver training on cultural competency, white supremacy, anti-racist policies and practices, peer support spaces and mentoring/leadership development.

- **Refugee and Asylum Seeker Forum** (supported by Action Together), brings together organisations that provide support to share information, create pathways between support that is available and engage in GM and national campaigns.
- **Diversity Network** (supported by Action Together) is working with the PCCA team and primary care partners to hold workshops to identify and remove barriers to access primary care for people who experience racism and have a long-term condition e.g., people experiencing racism with hypertension.
- After identifying a gap in provision and using **Community Wellbeing Investment**, Action Together has recently funded 4 organisations to **increase the provision of bereavement support available to people experiencing racism** in Tameside.
- **Violence Reduction** – St Peter's, Action Together are working with Holy Trinity and we **building relationships with local Imams to develop community-led solutions.** – looking for funding to develop support for trauma, D/M, sexual assault, and trafficking, particularly with women from Afghanistan. Facilitated a meeting with the local police and councillors to improve communication and joint action.

- Trafford has **undertaken research** in support of Greater Manchester Mental Health to understand key **issues and barriers around access to mental health services in diverse communities**, helping inform development of the NHS Mental Health Patient and Carer Race Equality and Inclusion Framework (PCREIF).
- Trafford Community Collective has been successful with an application to Foundation Economy to **create a community partnership approach that supports effective community engagement**, which will lead to improving services for older people while reducing health inequalities in Old Trafford.
- Trafford's **Multi-cultural Women's Wellbeing Group** has continued to deliver its **Creative ESOL Lessons for women** in the Borough for whom English is not their first language to enable them to lead fulfilling and inclusive lives.
- Trafford Community Collective, Thrive and Sale PCN are running a test and learn site in Sale West and Sale Moor to develop **holistic support and engagement to increase the uptake of health services in deprived communities**, with a focus on people not currently engaging with primary care.

Women's Voice - **Stockport Women and Girls Network** hosted Stockport's 2023 **International Womens' Day Celebration** at Stockport Guildhall with 150 guests across sectors and genders and an international video link. <https://makeadifferencegm.co.uk/iwd-2023-presentations/>

Food Poverty - Collaborations by the Stockport Food Network with Public Health on a new Food Strategy for Stockport. **Linking up of ethnically diverse food provision for Stockport in partnership with Stockport Race Equality Network and Stockport Women and Girls Networks.** Fundraising walk along Hadrians' Wall which gained media coverage to raise funds for **Slow Cooker appeal.** <https://www.justgiving.com/page/coast2coast>

Refugee rights - Development of consortium to develop **refugee and asylum seeker** rights with 6 partner organisations which has been match-funded by Refugee Action and SMBC and in dialogue and close working with the Team Around the Hotels. Consortium has secured funding for a **new full-time Refugee Partner Lead position** and is recruiting currently. Consortium highlights: interventions in individual cases; running informal **ESOL courses**; **culturally-appropriate foodbanks**; **therapeutic sessions.**

Interfaith dialogue - Funding has been secured to officially support the work of the **Stockport Friends of Interfaith Network** and is in process of signing MOU.

Disabilities We have proudly **launched a new grassroots network for disabled people's organisations.**



- Salford CVS facilitate an annual **Young People's 'Seldom Heard' event**, resulting in pledges that are implemented by Salford City Council
- Salford CVS secured resources for **capacity building with local disabled people-led and impairment-focused VCSE groups** and organisations has resulted in this year's **Salford CVS conference having an overall focus on disability**
- Salford CVS resource a permanent **Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Network**, as part of their collaborative city-wide VOCAL forums which ensures that related work is ongoing and sustainable – for example recent work **reviewing the Salford Women and Girls' Commission recommendations**
- Collaborating with Salford partners to achieve **City of Sanctuary status**
- Established and supporting **Black (VCSE) Leaders Network** in Salford
- Continued support to **Trusted Voices** organisations to act as the trusted voices of communities of identity

Over the past 12 months, Wigan VCSE Sector, together with Wigan Council and Healthy Wigan Partnership, have developed a number of new networks which aim to drive forward activity that will reduce inequality in the borough:

- Equalities - **Disabilities / Gender / Faith** - this is a **new set of networks** being developed or **led by** a small number of **Social Enterprises and Charities** across Wigan Borough. Eg, a Womens Network has commenced covering Wigan, Leigh and Makerfield.
- **Mental Wellbeing / Community Health Building** Ops group - network led by Groundwork and the Healthy Wigan Partnership and leading on the '**test and learn**' initiative as part of **Community Health Building**
- **Social Enterprise Network** - network of around 158 members who meet monthly and facilitated by Wigan and Leigh Community Charity, funded via the **Proper Good programme**, and providing **awareness raising and training and networking opportunities** to help SEs start up and grow and move towards **Social Investment**
- **Food Network** - this network developed in 2022, **bringing together the Food Providers across the Borough** who supported during lockdown. The group was brought together by Wigan Council but the network is now looking to become an independent group.
- **Digital and Culture** - Wigan Council have brought together both a Digital Communities Partnership and also a Culture Partnership. Both networks are becoming independent and **led by Social Enterprises** across the wider VCFSE sector in the Borough.