



# GM VCSE Infrastructure Development Autumn Update 2023

Funded by  
UK Government

**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 since July 2023, and outline some of the plans for the next 3 months.

## Oldham

In Oldham more VCSE grassroots groups are accessing support through hyperlocal teams. To deliver their Workforce Development Programme, all Action Together areas have jointly recruited a dedicated Workforce Development Manager and established a working group to oversee the programme's delivery. They have reviewed current Organisational Development and resources including assessing Action Together's current offer to the local VCSE Sector; exploring the changing needs of the local sector; and identifying skills gaps across the local VCSE Sector. They have already redesigned many of their core training sessions to keep them easy to digest, using accompanying online resources and follow up videos.

## Wigan

Wigan have been busy designing their new VCSE Dispersed Leadership Model with colleagues from Wigan Council, Groundwork, and Wigan and Leigh Community Charity.

They have advertised the Leadership roles widely across the VCSE sector, held lots of interviews, and appointed 12 new members, who will form their new Leadership Group.

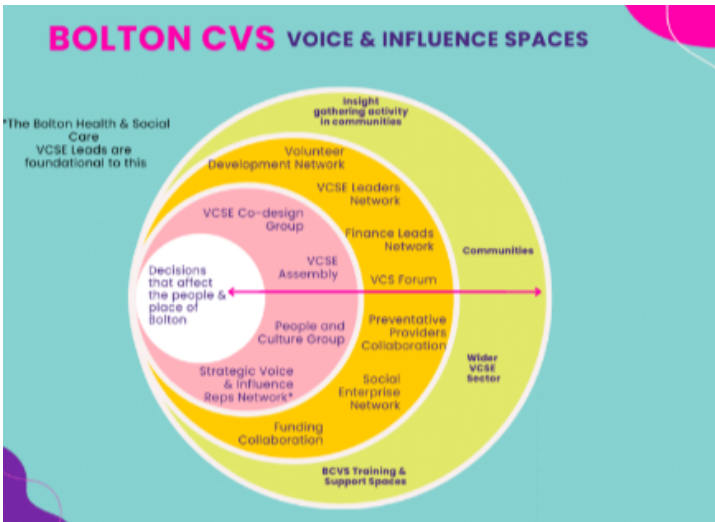
The new leaders are now working together to agree how they will operate, and where they will seek to influence local and GM activity.

## Bolton

Bolton CVS have reviewed their voice and influence model with partners and members, to make sure that these are more reflective of the local community and its needs.

They continue to act as a gateway between the VCSE sector and 'system' colleagues, supporting VCSE sector representatives to join and influence strategic plans and forums.

Bolton hosted their first VCSE assembly at their AGM in October, encouraging more diverse voices to be heard, and growing networking opportunities across the VCSE sector.



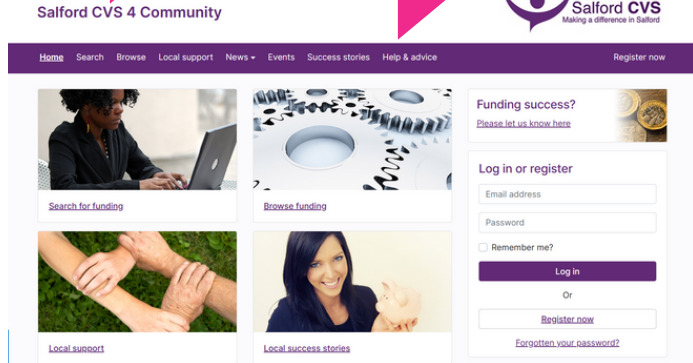


## Salford

Salford has begun recruiting a Social Enterprise Development Worker and hosted a social enterprise breakfast event.

They have engaged with 43 social enterprises over the summer, 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 a Reach Fund application and bid to the Hamilton Davis Trust.

Salford CVS have also supported the Salford Sup event in September.



## Tameside

Tameside has been developing their support for social enterprises, particularly CIC's to develop their business plan and increase their revenue, with a focus on developing new and emerging groups.

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## Rochdale

Rochdale is seeing an increasing need for Community Anchors to have robust financial plans in place to diversify income and develop their longer-term business planning.

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## Trafford

Thrive Trafford has been developing their support offer for the social economy, including social enterprise development, and increasing awareness of social investment as an alternative source of funding. This has included providing tailored support for social enterprise startups. They hosted a Meet the Funder session about social investment including launch of GMCVO's new Enterprising Communities Fund, and distributed a Special Social Economy Bulletin. They held a very successful Business to Community Sector Matching Event in September with over 100 representatives.

Trafford are also compiling a VCFSE Infrastructure Support Offer Matrix with partners and have started to redesign the Thrive Trafford website.





## Bury

In Bury, Bury VCFA has provided additional training sessions to the sector, and hosted a targeted networking opportunity in Whitefield.

They have provided VCFSE organisational health checks within their food security project, Sustain, and engaged with social investors to foster new social enterprise models around food sustainability.

They have also designed a youth-led grants programme; a "Passport to Volunteering" initiative; and worked with Bury business leaders to develop corporate social responsibility and employee volunteering programmes.



## Manchester

Manchester have been implementing their new membership model. This has included building a new Membership Team to signpost and direct members to the right part of the business; and creating a tiered membership model to reflect the breath of organisations wishing to join.

Manchester have revised their membership terms & conditions and re-built their membership database and are also exploring how they can create a Self-Service members-only area in their Customer Relationship Management System (Civi).

## Stockport

Stockport has launched a 5-year VCFSE Strategy with priorities including investment and funding, capacity building, and community voice, power and influence.

Sector3 in Stockport have also been busy developing and launching a membership offer for VCFSE organisations, and providing health checks to organisations to support their resilience and development.

They are also developing their Customer Relationship Management System so that they can better track engagement.



**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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