



GM VCSE Infrastructure Development Spring 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 January - March 2024, and outline some of the plans for the next 3 months.

Oldham

In Oldham work has been undertaken to refresh and re-launch Oldham Voluntary Sector Leadership Group. Members of the forum have met and worked together through workshops to co-design a model for VCFSE Voice and Influence, review and update key Messages for influencing, and understand the current strategic context.

Action Together in Oldham have continued to facilitate Oldham Poverty Action Network, which brings together people with lived experience of poverty with VCFSE groups and the public sector. They have also co-produced an 'inclusive recruitment toolkit', which is a blueprint for organisations and employers to remove barriers caused by inequalities to their recruitment processes.



A Bolton CVS Voice and Influence space in action

Wigan

Wigan's Leadership Group have renamed as Wigan Borough Accord Group and have now been allocated roles to ensure information is passed between Wigan and GM. This was done through mapping of GM networks and allocating Leaders to attend these ensuring representation at a GM level. The Leaders are now in a position to provide practical support and opportunities, both within the Group to fellow Leaders, and to the local VCFSE sector.

The Wigan Borough Accord Group have started to and will continue in the next quarter to collaborate with Wigan Council on developing a 'New Era' piece of work following the legacy of 'The Deal'.

Bolton

Bolton CVS Voice and Influence Working Group has been established and has begun to look at ways that information is handled, exploring the internal insight gathering processes, and how to turn this into real community insight and knowledge. This test and learn process will trial collecting information tracked in key themes and relating these to Bolton's 2030 Vision.

They have also continued to develop and strengthen connections with cross-sector partners and allies as they take on more collaborative work looking at how they can collectively improve and make decisions that best support the people and place of Bolton. This has included extending VCSE Leaders meetings to include meeting with Bolton Council.

Salford

Salford CVS' Social Enterprise Development Worker is now in post and delivering on the project supporting 46 CICs & Social Enterprises this quarter.

Through engagement with Social Enterprises, the new Social Enterprise Development Worker identified that VAT was an issue for scale-up. This resulted in sourcing support from a VAT specialist to support organisations. In addition, this quarter Salford CVS have commissioned training, workshops and 1-2-1 support in the following areas: Social Investment Readiness, Marketing and a Women-Led Social Entrepreneur programme.

In addition, they co-organised, promoted and participated in the Salford Social Enterprise City Sup event where 8 social enterprises pitched and JaksWorld CIC secured the £1k seed pitch funding at the event.

Action Together in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside launch their new organisation health check tool to support the local VCSE sector.

Organisation Health Checks

Support : Strengthen : Shine



Tameside

Action Together in Tameside's new training calendar has been launched and they have a new leadership programme in development.

This quarter they have also undertaken a review of networks with a new schedule of networks launching in April. In addition this quarter, Action Together have developed a new capacity building tool to use alongside groups to support work to develop groups and organisations.

Next quarter will see the continued roll out of the capacity building tool to use alongside groups to support work to develop groups and organisations. The Organisation Health Check toolkit enables group leaders, committee members and trustees to work alongside their development worker to reflect on the 'health' of their organisation.



Rochdale

Action Together in Rochdale launched a new Anti-Poverty Network and recruited a diverse foundation group who will drive forward the work of the network. The network will be embedded in local system governance, providing accountability, voice, and action around Rochdale's new anti-poverty strategy.

They also continued to deliver a range of networks and forums including: Food Solutions Network, Women's Services Network, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Forum, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Forum, and a Digital Inclusion Forum.

In addition, this quarter they supported Citizen's Advice to launch a Welfare Advice Forum to build stronger relationships between local groups.

Trafford

This quarter Thrive Trafford have developed an information strategy for the VCFSE sector in Trafford. They have also undertaken a review of the Trafford Friendly Funders Partnership and implemented new Terms of Reference in view of changed partner roles. This partnership provides coordination and signposting of funding support for the VCFSE sector and organises sessions such as Meet the Funder events and training.

In addition, the Phase 1 refresh of Thrive website has now been completed with updated pages for volunteering support and information about Thrive services. The content for Phase 2 of the website refresh has also been completed which includes a dedicated page for Social Enterprise Support due to go live in the next quarter.

They have also launched a Trafford Social Enterprise E-Bulletin, which contains information about social enterprises, training and support, funding, and social investment.



Bury

Following a restructure and recruitment, Bury VCFA now have additional capacity in the team to deliver on their core capacity building offer. A new Capacity Building Coordinator, Volunteering Development Officer and Grants Support Worker are now in post.

Bury VCFA are partners in two strands of Strategic Workforce Delivery Plan: Workforce Integration and Workforce Wellbeing. This links to their leadership around the Good Employment Charter in the VCSE sector. In addition, they have been exploring opportunities to utilise the good practice in the GM Inclusive Recruitment Toolkit (ethnicity and disability) through their training offer with initial conversations with Persona to explore co-delivery of training for the VCSE sector.

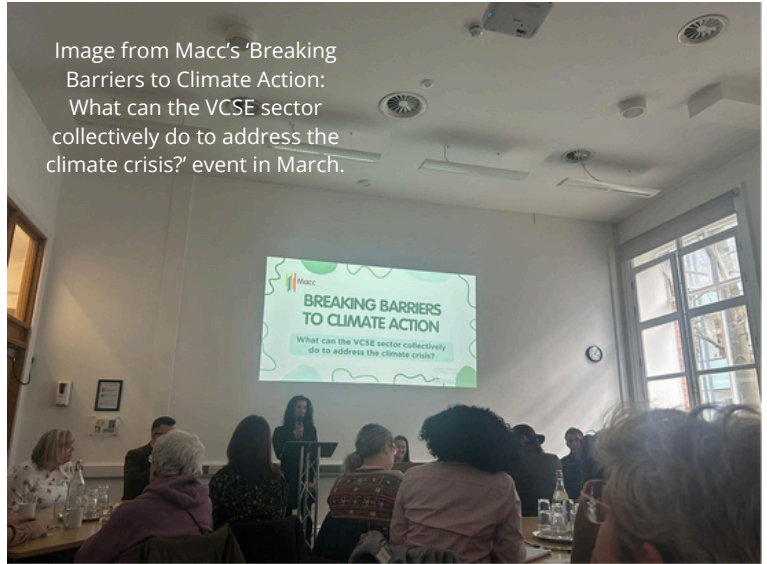


Image from Macc's 'Breaking Barriers to Climate Action: What can the VCSE sector collectively do to address the climate crisis?' event in March.

Stockport

Sector3 Stockport highlighted 'Community Power' Influence and Leadership in this quarter, which included a themed Meet, Greet, Grow conference with guest speakers from 10GM, health leads, and culture leads. A map of influence was shared to highlight how community leaders can influence change through established boards and the VCFSE Alliance was launched.

Following the Proper Good business conference last quarter Sector3 have established a business club with 39 registered members. The business contacts have resulted in just under £30k of sponsorship for Stockport's volunteer celebration, Stockport Rocks.



Image from Stockport's first volunteer awards in over a decade

Manchester

Macc have started rollout of their 'What Macc Stands for Statements' as part of their advocacy work on key issues. This is progressing well with a new statement published each month including the Macc Climate Action statement launched this quarter at their 'Breaking Barriers to Climate Action: What can the VCSE sector collectively do to address the climate crisis?' event in March.

There has also been work to expand established collaborative projects e.g., Peace Together Alliance looking at employment and skills support, and Migrant Destitution Action Group to develop building more collaborative campaign work.



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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