

GM VCSE Infrastructure Development Summer Update 2024/25

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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.

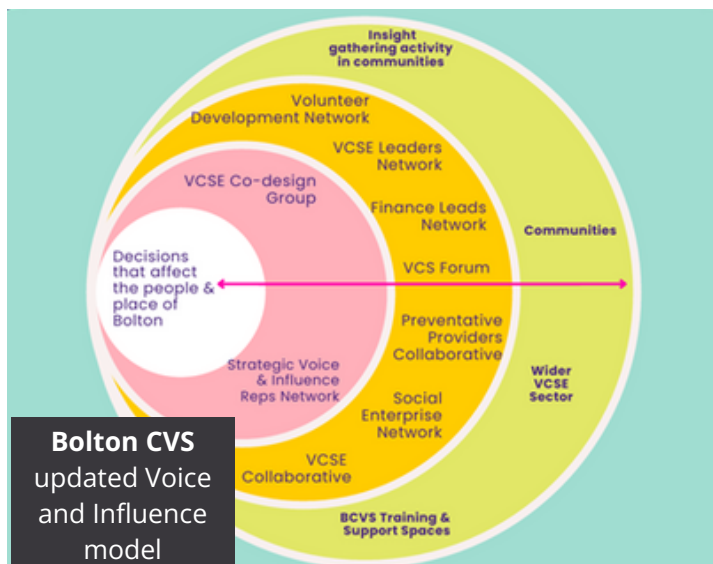
This briefing will update you on the activity that has taken place from April - June 2024, and outline some of the plans for the next 3 months.

Oldham

Action Together in Oldham have been leading the development of an Oldham Engagement Framework across the Public Sector System and VCFSE sector. They have also led on establishing an Engagement and Insight Network which has brought together 60 people from the VCFSE and public sector to better coordinate community engagement and insight work across the borough.

The Community Health Champions Network has continued to strengthen in this quarter with a relaunch and 2 Network meetings delivered, Measles and MMR training and a public health funded grants programme.

Action Together have also launched their new training offer for members, providing 25 individual courses this quarter, and have recruited local Delivery Partners with specialist skills.



Wigan

Wigan Borough Accord Group continue to meet and have developed strong links with the Faith sector to explore bringing together Churches and Social Enterprises looking for accommodation. They are starting to develop partnerships between members and some networks such as around sustainable food.

The Group are developing their operational model to include working groups to enable more work to be progressed outside of the main Group meetings.

In the next quarter, Wigan Borough Accord Group will continue to support Wigan Council in the launch of their New Era work, plus supporting the development of strategies alongside Healthy Wigan Partnership.

Bolton

Bolton CVS held the first VCSE Collaborative where Bolton's VCSE sector can work together to develop ideas, share resources and signpost to each other's services. They have also made significant progress with another of the Voice and Influence spaces, the Preventative Providers Collaborative. This space is set up as a space for VCSE organisations working in preventative care services to come together and share insight about engaging with the healthcare system. This space is now being recognised by cross-sector partners and allies.

The focus next quarter will be on strengthening these voice and influence spaces and a comms focus on the importance of collaboration and partnership working in creating a sustainable VCSE sector in Bolton.

Salford

This quarter Salford CVS have undertaken extensive work with Salford Council on the Alternative Education Provider procurement process to enable local social enterprises to be able to apply for this commission. They have also been focusing on outreach to social enterprises to encourage them to sign up to the upcoming Time to Grow training programme running in the next quarter. Training this quarter has included Celebrating Impact which engaged 4 people from social enterprises. Salford CVS have also supported the Salford Social Enterprise Sup in June.

Next quarter will see the launch of the Time to Grow Programme and Salford CVS staff will undergo their own internal training delivered by GMCVO on social investment to support their social enterprise development offer.



Action Together in Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside launch their new programme to empower social entrepreneurs.

Tameside

In line with other Action Together localities, Action Together in Tameside have also launched their new training offer for members and will also be part of the evaluation to enhance the offer further in the next quarter.

This quarter they have begun to develop an influence plan and will be using this to move towards a more influential role for the VCFSE sector in Tameside. This will be further developed in the next quarter and delivery will also start.



Rochdale

Action Together in Rochdale launched their training offer for members, providing 25 individual courses this quarter and have recruited local delivery partners with specialist skills.

Applications opened this quarter for the Accelerator Programme designed to empower social entrepreneurs across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside. This programme, delivered by Mantle, aims to enhance sustainability, diversify income streams, and develop robust business models for your social enterprise. The accelerator's primary goal is to support social entrepreneurs in building sustainable and resilient businesses.

Next quarter they will further enhance the training offer based on a quarter one evaluation.

Trafford

This quarter Thrive Trafford have added further information to the Thrive Trafford website relating to social enterprise support and development of the Trafford Social Enterprise Network as part of phase 2 of website development.

They have continued to develop links with social investors, this quarter focusing on relationships with key funders and their products/offer. There has been further promotion of social investment to VCFSEs in Trafford including GMCVO Social Investment offer and their Enterprising Communities Fund and Energy Resilience Fund.

Thrive Trafford held a Meet the Funder event with VCFSEs including social investment support available from GMCVO, as well as a special focus group event held to engage VCFSEs on the Trafford Council new Corporate Plan to codesign priorities. An area identified related to social value and the TOMs framework.



Bury

in this quarter Bury VCFA have delivered 6 training courses: Introduction to Canva, Adult Safeguarding Awareness, The Essential Trustee, Volunteering Leadership, Funding Applications: Hints and Tips, and a Social Media drop-in learning session.

The team at Bury VCFA have also undertaken a review of the grant-giving process and have monitored outcomes for Cost-of-Living grants 2023-24, held a community of practice session for Culture Grant recipients as well as launch and open application period for GM Moving Whitefield and Bury North grants.

Plans for next quarter include the promotion and delivery of a further 6 training opportunities and the launch of cost-of-living grants.

The newly launched Stockport Volunteer Hub



Stockport

Sector3 Stockport facilitated a Meet Greet and Grow conference on 'Community Power' sharing the map of voice and influence across Stockport and GM with outlining the VCFSE Accord. This led to recruitment for the Stockport VCFSE Alliance, a new strategic leadership board made up of reps from across the VCFSE sector with a representative also from the economic alliance.

This quarter also saw the successful launch of the new Stockport Volunteer Hub website with input and guidance from the Volunteer Managers Network. The site has led to an increase in volunteer opportunities along with a number of people applying.

Manchester

Macc have made good progress this quarter with expanding the range of in-person Community Explorers spaces. Recent Community Explorers events have focused on climate action, refugees and asylum seekers and housing. events next quarter will focus on real living wage and safeguarding.

Macc also delivered a strong programme delivered for Volunteers Week including a new online system for generating recognition certificates as part of IT system upgrades. They have also been able to start analysing responses from the ongoing membership survey launched last quarter.

Next quarter in volunteering the focus will be on growing the range of evidence on barriers to volunteering and the role of referral agencies.

Macc membership survey



Macc's membership survey responses will be reported at their next AGM in November 2024.



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