



GM VCSE Infrastructure Development Summer Update 2025/26



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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 2025.

Oldham

Action Together in Oldham hosted a joint VCFSE and Public Sector Leadership Forum and 12 partnership events, while supporting new thematic networks on men's wellbeing and digital inclusion. The E11 programme for 2025/26 was co-designed with members to align priorities with sector needs, focusing on partnerships/collaborative working and Employee Supported Volunteering. Volunteers' Week included a virtual fair, and new member resources such as marketing and recruitment toolkits were launched.



Bolton CVS Volunteer Development Network meeting

Wigan

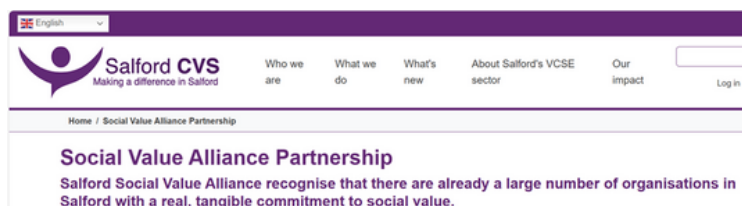
This quarter saw the transition to a new local infrastructure organisation, with Wigan Borough Community First taking on E11, E26 and Live Well delivery. Work is underway to establish a new membership model, recruit key roles and scope a CRM system. These foundations mark an important step towards building a sustainable platform for sector representation and collaboration.

Bolton

Bolton CVS strengthened volunteering and partnerships this quarter, working with DWP to deliver Benefits of Volunteering workshops in Job Centres, helping clients make informed choices about volunteering. Khidma Ladies Community Group also grew with CVS support, successfully recruiting a volunteer to manage administration. Volunteers' Week stalls and the Volunteer Development Network further engaged new audiences and supported local groups.

Salford

Salford CVS strengthened the Social Value Alliance with an in-person event on the theme of People, featuring contributions from Colas, Salford Council and Healthwatch. Salford CVS also supported the formation of Supportive Spaces CIC, helping them secure £24k in grants and join the Alliance. These activities highlight how Salford is embedding Social Value and supporting new organisations to thrive.



Salford CVS Social Value Alliance Partnership



Rochdale Action Together Live Well Summit

Rochdale

Rochdale strengthened influence through the Heywood Neighbourhood Partnership and VCFSE Leadership Group. A major highlight was the Live Well Summit, bringing together 30 organisations to explore health and wellbeing priorities and future opportunities. Other activity included a Volunteer Fair, Anti-Poverty roundtable with government, and new community development roles to expand local capacity.

Trafford

Thrive Trafford worked with Trafford Community Collective to deliver Live Well prototype grants and joined the local Steering Group to shape the Live Well Implementation Fund. Progress was made on the Trafford Social Enterprise Network and a Social Enterprise Place application, while partnerships with Stretford Public Hall and the GM Business Growth Hub are strengthening the borough's social economy.

Tameside

Tameside Action Together co-designed Community-Led Wellbeing Principles, now adopted locally, and distributed £142,000 to four partnership projects. Highlights included support for the new Roving Museum project, now established as a CIO, and the launch of a Storytelling Toolkit at the Voluntary Sector Summit, giving groups confidence to share their impact more effectively.



Tameside Action Together Storytelling Toolkit

Manchester

This quarter, Macc progressed the draft VCSE Strategy and began work on a new VCSE Compact for Manchester. Policy updates were redesigned to improve accessibility, and the membership model expanded to engage organisations previously outside infrastructure support. Representation in citywide forums has increased, reinforcing the sector's influence and voice across Manchester.

Bury

Bury VCFA advanced the VCSE/Public Sector MoU and launched the Bury Fund pooled investment approach. A highlight was the Volunteer Fair at Millgate Shopping Centre, which attracted over 400 visitors, promoted 100+ roles and resulted in a number of new volunteers registering. Bury VCFA also delivered training for over 80 participants, and recognised volunteers through a Mayoral reception.



A sample page from Bury VCFA
Volunteering Guide

Stockport

Sector 3 launched a £90,000 Refugee Welcome Programme and delivered Housing Advice Drop-Ins with Stockport Homes. Two major events stood out: Stockport Rocks! 2025, celebrating 200+ volunteers and securing support from 27 businesses; and the first Community-led Mental Health Awareness Fair, which brought together 17 VCSE groups and 5 public sector partners to raise awareness and advocate for greater investment in community mental health services.

"It makes you realise how
much people do...
for free."

Stockport Rocks! guest

"I've just been invited as a guest
but I loved every minute of it."

Stockport Rocks! guest

Some of the quotes from Stockport
Rocks! 2025 guests

**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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