



GM VCSE Infrastructure Development Annual Priorities 2025/26

together
we are
**GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Bolton
Bury
Manchester
Oldham
Rochdale
Salford
Stockport
Tameside
Trafford
Wigan



Funded by
UK Government

The Greater Manchester VCSE Infrastructure Development Programme is funded through 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 2026, and is being delivered by the partnership of Local Infrastructure Organisations (and other organisations with reach) across all 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

This briefing will update you on the priority areas for each locality for the year 2025-2026.

Bury

Bury VCFA has a focus on 2 key areas for 2025/26: skills development and providing a voice for the sector. A significant increase in training provision for the sector has been outlined, utilising Community Connector Meetings wherever possible, involving 10/12 groups together in neighbourhoods.

Growth of the membership is still a big priority, with work planned on the analysis of membership to understand thematic gaps, including equality and geography. Simultaneously, an ongoing refresh of the volunteering strategy is planned to align with the *Bury VCFA Strategic Plan* and *Let's Do It Strategy* for the borough.

Bolton

For 2025-2026, Bolton CVS will focus on volunteering support to VCSE organisations in the borough. Specifically, the funding is covering a new post to manage volunteers, update the website and provide resources for prospective volunteers.

This extra resource frees up the time of the volunteer development officer to assist local VCSE organisations in managing, recruiting and retaining volunteers by expanding the training offer and supporting them to complete the volunteer charter (via the Bolton Mark framework for best practice).

FREE TRAINING & NETWORKING SESSIONS

Community groups, charities, and social enterprises in Bury - explore our upcoming sessions and book your place today!

Upcoming Training Schedule

Name	Location	Date/Time
Bury Volunteering Network	Bury VCFA Office	Thu 3 rd April 11:00am - 1:00pm
Whitefield Connections Meeting	Elms Centre, Whitefield	Tue 8 th April 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Prestwich Connections Meeting	Jewel Fnd, Prestwich	Tue 29 th April 5:00pm - 6:00pm
Funding Hints & Tips	Bury VCFA Office	Wed 30 th April 5:00pm - 6:30pm
North Bury Connections Meeting	Greenmount Cricket Club	Tue 6 th May 6:00pm - 7:00pm

www.buryvcfa.org.uk/training

Bury VCFA's training and networking offer



Bolton CVS Volunteer Development Network meeting



Manchester

Macc is using the E11 funding to accelerate the membership levels and increase communications and marketing activities relating to current and prospective VCSE member organisations.

The aim is to develop their membership approach, enabling more self-service and targeted support. A key target area is organisations that have not previously accessed services or support. One specific example of this is a major initiative to support VCSE organisations applying to the *Our Manchester VCSE fund*.

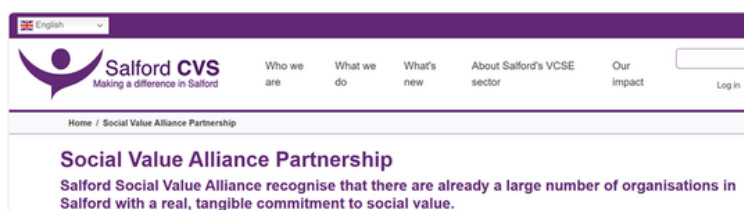
SUPPORT	VOICE	CONNECT
<p>Website resources</p> <p>Ebulletins</p> <p>Members bulletin – feature in case studies and new member profiles and we'll share your news, events and press releases to promote what you're doing</p> <p>Discounts on services – you'll receive a discounts on our training courses and hiring our meeting rooms</p> <p>Access to our free Funding portal (Manchester based VCSE organisations only)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to explore partnerships • VCS assembly (having a voice and being represented) • Be part of our network / leaders forums • Voting rights at our Annual General Meetings (Manchester based VCSE organisations only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and signposting • Volunteer brokerage • Be part of our members' forum • Job opportunities promoted • Invites to events • Making connections to the sector • Support to achieve corporate social responsibility / social value aims

Macc membership offer

Salford

Salford CVS targeted advice and support to local organisations around social value for 2025/26 and have continued to organise and facilitate Salford's Social Value Alliance. Work is underway to develop a social value toolkit and develop a Social Value Brokerage Offer.

The aim is to support VCSE organisations to be more confident using the Social Value Portal and access opportunities for growth. Salford CVS will continue to promote local VCSE organisations to the public and private sector and foster collaborative working.



Salford CVS Social Value Alliance Partnership

Oldham

Action Together facilitated a co-design process, bringing insight from their work with member groups and organisations. This collaborative approach helped define the programme's priorities and ensured alignment with the NAVCA Infrastructure Function 2: Partnerships and Collaboration.

Key areas of focus identified through this work formed the priorities for Oldham in 25/26:

- Strengthening partnerships for VCSE groups and orgs to participate in more formal collaborations, including partnership service delivery and joint funding bids.
- Enhancing our brokerage offer for Employee Supported Volunteering (ESV) and Social Value offers from the private sector to the VCSE.

Rochdale

Action Together in Rochdale is using the E11 funding to embed and evaluate the systems change work it has been delivering locally. It has mapped out the 18-month journey as a Live Well accelerator site - the challenges to address, the different sector perspectives, big wins, key turning points or points of interest.

The outcome has been the creation of a 30-page document: *"Making better decisions for people with people: community decision making shaping how we tackle poverty in Rochdale"*. The next steps are to use this as a template to codify other systems change work in Rochdale, and also use it to practically support the system in the Live Well Implementation.





Stockport

Sector 3 in Stockport has outlined a focus for 2025/26 on Capacity Building support with a full training schedule in place, including: monthly bid writing sessions, including AI in bid writing, Meet the Funders, Monitoring and Evaluation (lasting impact, getting creative).

In addition, Sector 3 is developing a 'Capacity Building Checklist' to be launched for each group that receives support, to ensure consistency, policy & governance is up to date and an effective way to monitor organisations' development

Internally, a CRM system is being established and used to track investment to member organisations, whilst seeking solutions to tracking the impact generated.

Trafford

For 2025-2026, Thrive Trafford will seek to explore the development of more place-based approaches with local partners following the successful work with Stretford Public Hall as part of their Locality-funded *Connection Trailblazer Programme*, which is enabling the provision of coordinated support activities.

In addition, high levels of demand for social enterprise support will ensure Thrive continue with the development of the Trafford Social Enterprise Network (TSEN) and application for Trafford to become a Social Enterprise Place. This will include commitments to further grow and strengthen our social enterprise ecosystem in Trafford, campaigns such as *'Buy Social'*, and working with partners such as the Business Growth Hub to further increase skills.

Tameside

Action Together in Tameside is using the funding to employ a development worker, with support focusing on capacity-building and skills development (including leadership skills). This will include promoting and embedding organisational health-checks as a diagnostic tool to support members and help to identify their areas of development for growth and sustainability.

Specific areas of support include assisting organisations in improving their monitoring and evaluation, facilitating changes in governance and assisting groups working towards *Quality in Action Awards*.

Wigan

As the new Local Infrastructure Organisation in the area, Wigan Borough Community First (WBCF) has a focus on working with local stakeholders to support and strengthen the voluntary sector across the Wigan Borough. A key priority for 2025-2026 is the establishment of the Alliance in partnership with local organisations.

WBCF is building a CRM system which will enable a database of local organisations and, simultaneously, develop a mailing list of VCSE's in Wigan Borough.

Other priorities include developing a Representation Framework to identify existing contracts/commissioned programmes and, once the organisation's change to CIO is finalised, a membership recruitment drive will follow later in the year.

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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