



ISSUE 4 Winter 2010

Manchester Community
Central's quarterly news

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Comprehensive Changes
- 2 Training
- 2 Our Website



- 3 - 5 The Comprehensive Spending Review & the Voluntary Sector
- 6 Consultation
- 6 - 7 Case Studies
- 8 Equality Act 2010

Supporting our
Voluntary and
Community
Sector

Comprehensive Changes

Hi there, welcome to Issue 4 of our newsletter

As a voluntary and community sector it feels like we have more than just dark nights ahead as the full impact of the recent Comprehensive Spending Review begins to unfold. There is a whole new language developing, "Big Society, co-production, community organisers" to name a few key phrases. It's a stressful time trying to work out what's around the corner and getting on with day to day work.

At Manchester Community Central we are developing tools and resources to deal with these unprecedented times. Key themes we will be addressing over the coming weeks are collaboration and merger, closure and business recovery and commissioning.

We develop our resources in response to needs, so do get in touch and talk to one of our team about the issues you are facing.

In this issue you will learn about two very different ways we have supported groups in our case studies, there's a round up of resources and information on The Comprehensive Spending Review, an opportunity for you to get involved in a Government consultation on Supporting a Stronger Civil Society – our chance to try and influence things to come and an overview of the Equality Act 2010 which affects us all.

Keep in touch with us we are here to support your triumphs and your trials.

Tracey Rawlins - Programme Manager

Contact our Telephone Information Service

0333 321 3021

Calls made from a landline or mobile phone - charged at local call rate

Training

Workshops

Manchester Community Central is co-ordinating a series of 'taster' workshops targeted at Manchester's voluntary community sector.

Do you want to:

- **Make the most out of GRANTnet?**
- **Run your management committee more effectively?**
- **Learn how to manage your organisations finances better?**
- **Find out how to use webtools to save money, promote your group online?**
- **Work with volunteers?**

Then why not sign up to a workshop - running on a demand led basis, sessions range from one hour to a full day and will always have opportunities for networking. There will be time built in for questions and answers giving you the chance to ask that burning question.

Workshops will run when enough requests are received therefore booking is essential - to view a full list of workshops and to register interest, visit:

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/workshops

Action Learning for Managers

Are you a Manager in a voluntary organisation?

Do you find yourself in situations with no one to discuss issues / share ideas?

Are you thinking of merger, recruiting to Boards, staffing difficulties, a new direction?

Are you willing to share your own experiences to enhance the learning of others?

Manchester Community Central is bringing together individuals from across the sector to form action learning sets.

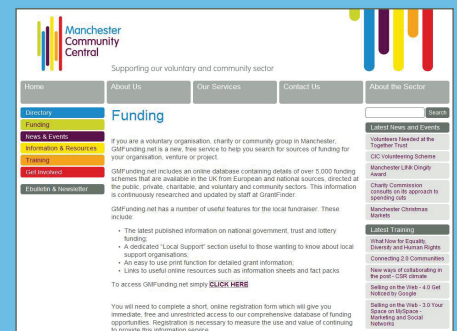
If you are interested or would like to know more please contact our Training Coordinator on:
training@mcrcommunitycentral.org



Our Website

Funding

If you are a voluntary organisation, charity or community group in Manchester, GRANTnet is a free service to help you search for sources of funding for your organisation, venture or project.



GRANTnet includes an online database containing details of over 5,000 funding schemes directed at the public, private, charitable, and voluntary and community sectors.

GRANTnet has a number of useful features:

- **The latest published information on national government, trust and lottery funding**
- **Links to useful online resources such as information sheets and fact packs**



The Comprehensive Spending Review & the Voluntary Sector

Since October 20th's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) there have been many briefings and commentaries.

In truth, the full impact of the CSR won't be known for some weeks, particularly in relation to grant funding for the next financial year.

Manchester Community Central tries to collect together as much information as possible so that community groups can make informed decisions and plan for the future. We have also been bringing groups together through our Thinking the Unthinkable events. The latest of these looks at merger and collaboration. In 2011 we will be supporting groups work through business recovery and closure.

Relevant news and events will be posted on our website and through our ebulletins. Sign up so you stay ahead of what's going on. Here is a summary of useful information and resources that may help you. More detail can be found on our website:

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org.

Capacity-building

A £100m Transition Fund will be available for the voluntary sector as part of the government's comprehensive spending review.



According to Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society, the Transition Fund will be a short-term fund to "help charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises make the transition to becoming providers of public services, to work with us to build a Big Society and make the most of the opportunities it will bring for them."

A spokesman for the Office for Civil Society, which will deliver the fund with BIG (the non-lottery funding arm of the Big Lottery Fund) confirmed it would be worth £10m in 2010/11 and £90m in 2011/12.

The Cabinet Office has new responsibilities which include:

- **Around £470m support for the Civic Society organisations sector, including the £100m Transition Fund**
- **A National Citizen Service which will support young people from a mix of different backgrounds to develop skills and engage with their communities – sufficient to fund 10,000 places in 2011/12 and 30,000 in 2012/13;**
- **The Community First Fund which will support new and existing small organisations in the most deprived areas;**

Source: Cabinet Office website, 20/10/10

Changes to the Heritage Lottery Fund

In the light of the CSR the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has changed some of its criteria to help organisations who might be eligible to apply for funding. Key changes with immediate effect are:

- Reduced match funding requirements
- Management and maintenance costs included in match funding
- More accessible grant increases
- Protecting HLF investment

In all cases, applicants will still need to have explored other sources of funding and ensure their project offers good value for money.

HLF is currently looking at other ways it can assist with the challenges facing the heritage sector following the recent Spending Review and will be making decisions on future funding priorities over the coming months.

Local Voluntary Action and Public Sector Funding cuts

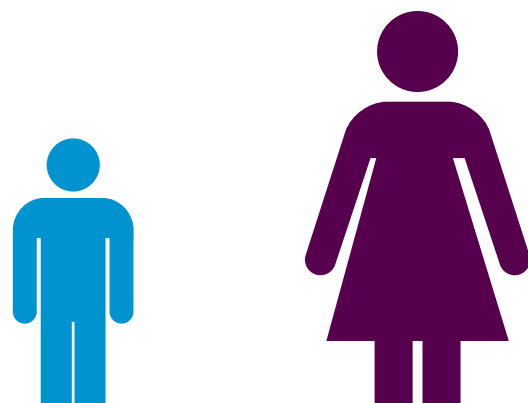
GMCVO – The Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) have recently carried out a survey to gauge the impact of public sector cuts on voluntary organisations. You can learn more about this survey from GMCVO's website www.gmcvo.org.uk.

GMVSS Marketplace – The Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support (GMVSS) Marketplace is a great way for groups to take advantage of discounts through bulk buying in these tough times. Sign up through Manchester Community Centrals website or call the Marketplace team on **0161 277 1039**.

NCVO – The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) have a useful membership website. In the support and advice section it has information on surviving the downturn and things to consider when thinking about collaboration and merger, www.ncvo-vol.org.uk.

CLES – The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) focuses on economic development, regeneration and local governance. They have run a number of seminars on collaboration exploring co-operatives, mutuals and other forms of partnership, www.cles.org.uk.

Manchester City Council – Through the **Manchester Business Continuity Forum** (MBCF) local organisations can access a range of support services including a mentoring service (MBCF Buddy Scheme). Contact Kimberley Hart for more information, k.hart@manchester.gov.uk





Public Service Commissioning: Local Authorities

In December we will find out officially what the spending review means for individual councils and the Local Government Association will be crunching the numbers to give an early idea of this to our member councils.

Source: [Baroness Eaton, Chair of Local Government Association, 21/10/10](#)

The spending review sets out real terms reductions of 28% in local authority budgets over the next four years. This compares with overall cuts of 8.3% across all departmental budgets. Local authority core funding from the department for Communities and Local Government falls by more than 7% a year in real terms, and significantly front-loaded.

There is new social care funding of £530m in 2011-12, rising to £1bn in 2013-14, and a further £1bn of additional funding through the NHS budget to support joint working between the NHS and councils.

Source: [Local Government Association website, 21/10/10](#)

Public Service Commissioning: Health

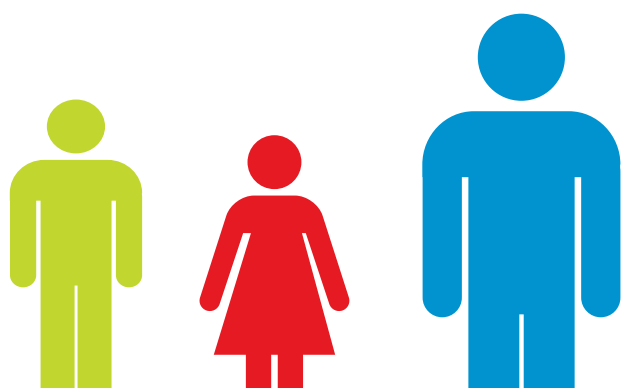
Compared to other departmental budgets the NHS settlement is a generous one. But, while the increase in health spending meets the pledge to protect the NHS budget, an increase of 0.1 per cent a year in real terms will soon be swallowed up by cost pressures such as incremental pay drift and the increase in VAT. The net result will be a reduction in the NHS's purchasing power.

Source: [King's Fund website, 21/10/10](#)

The settlement represents a fantastic opportunity to support integration between health and social care services at the local level. As well as NHS revenue rising in real terms, NHS commissioners will be allocated additional revenue amounting to £1bn in 2014/15 specifically for measures that support social care, which also benefit health. This upstream expenditure in meeting the needs of vulnerable people will represent a better quality and more efficient service across the health and social care system, preventing the need for greater expenditure downstream in acute healthcare.

It is critical that in challenging economic times we work more closely with our partners – between primary and secondary care, and between health and social care – rather than retreating within our own organisational boundaries.

Source: [Letter from Sir David Nicholson \(NHS Chief Exec\) to PCTs, 20/10/10](#)



Consultation

Supporting a Stronger Civil Society – developing a co-ordinated response

On 14 October the Office for Civil society launched a consultation to get your thoughts and ideas on the role it can play in ensuring that civil society in England has the advice, support and influence that will help it to modernise and respond to change.

The consultation asks for your specific feedback on proposals in six key areas:

- **Easier access to advice through online services**
- **Access to wider sources of support, particularly from the private sector**
- **Direct support to frontline organisations through bursaries**
- **Consolidation of support services through merger and collaboration**
- **Better local public sector partnerships**
- **Better partnerships between Central Government and national infrastructure organisations**

Manchester Community Central and its partner Community Network for Manchester are inviting voluntary and community groups to come together to discuss the consultation document and consider responses on **Monday 13 December, 4-6pm at the Green Fish Resource Centre.**

If you would like to be part of this, please register your interest by emailing:

training@mcrcommunitycentral.org,
or by giving us a call on **0333 321 3021.**

Even if you don't want to join our discussions please do use this opportunity to influence the future by sending in your group's response. You can do this by going to: **www.strongercivilsociety.org.uk**

The national deadline for responses is 6 January 2011

Case Studies

Here are two very different examples of the kinds of support we can offer.

Remember all support is tailored to suit so no two solutions will be the same.

The Withington and District Garden Society

The Withington and District Garden Society approached us for some support in identifying and applying for funding.

The group first used the GRANTnet tool via our website and requested follow up support. A Business Improvement Co-ordinator then got in touch. Some key priorities were identified and the group was supported to identify 4 possible sources of funding.

"We found the service from Manchester Community Central to be very prompt and comprehensive. When we knew who we could apply to we got on with the job of completing application forms and were successful! We received funding totaling £1500 from the Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund and Community Foundation for Greater Manchester. We would definitely recommend Manchester Community Central to other groups."

The funding the group received has enabled them to improve the services they provide in their community. They are improving their local environment by filling an empty space growing more plants that will attract bees and butterflies. They are also raising their profile, thanks to funding for new and improved publicity.

Case Studies



Our second case study was our solution for an organisation going through massive change.

Coaching

It's very daunting and lonely to be the person everyone looks to for leadership so we offered some one to one coaching sessions. Here's a personal account of one Chief Officer's experience. Coaching is very specific so we've kept the account anonymous in this instance.

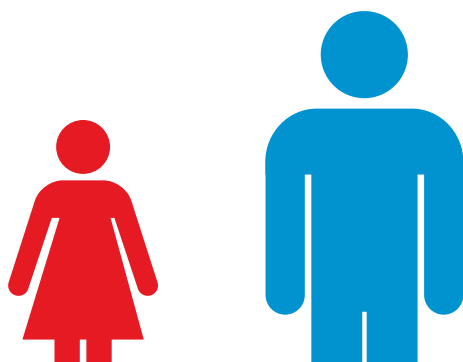
"As a new chief executive in a small very busy hands on service delivery organisation I found the opportunity to have some coaching and support at times a life saver! It provided time and space to step back and think things through with a critical friend and someone to share thoughts and processes with who had no axe to grind and an independent view. Managing change can be notoriously difficult and having someone who can help you to retain focus and direction when everyone around you is behaving in ways which cause endless distractions is again very helpful and a good investment."

"Being a chief executive can mean that you are often very isolated with few people around you who you can really trust. Investing in some support, coaching or mentoring can help to restore confidence, get the balance right between the day to day tactical issues and longer term

strategy and keep a focus when all around feels like chaos."

"I have found my coach to be particularly useful in restoring my faith in myself when staff have been very difficult to manage during changing times, keeping me focused on doing the right things in the right ways and understanding the business that I am in so that I can develop our skills in identified niche markets. As a critical friend and sounding board I have found my coach to be someone who reflects back to me a sense of direction and a clear idea of the impacts I may be having for others which helps me to manage issues with staff and trustees."

"At times when I have felt low, my coach has been able to reflect back the achievements I have made and give clear observations as to my strengths and development areas together with the progress I have made. Investing in coaching is hard work and can take it's toll emotionally, but for those who believe in personal development and transformational leadership, it's a must have and it will pay huge dividends."



Equality Act 2010

How does this affect you?

The majority of the Equality Act came into force on 1st October 2010

The Equality Act brings together nine separate pieces of legislation into one single Act simplifying the law and strengthening it in important ways to help tackle discrimination and inequality.

The nine key areas are:

- **Age**
- **Disability**
- **Pregnancy and maternity**
- **Gender reassignment**
- **Marriage and civil partnership**
- **Race**
- **Religion and belief**
- **Sex**
- **Sexual orientation**

Voluntary and community groups, charities, associations, service users and volunteers are all affected by this legislation. Therefore it's important that you know not only your rights but your responsibilities too.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has produced several guides including one called "Your rights to equality from voluntary and community sector organisations (including charities and religion or belief organisations)".

There is also a "starter kit" that organisations can use to help them deliver training.

Go to **www.equalityhumanrights.com** for more information or ring their helpline on **0845 604 6610**

There are several training/awareness raising opportunities listed on our website for groups wanting to find out more including a free conference at GMCVO in December.

Do you want your own copy of this newsletter?

If you're reading this in a library or at another organisation and you would like to receive your own version of the newsletter then contact **0333 321 3021** or email **info@mcrcommunitycentral.org** and we'll put one in the post and include you on future newsletter mailings.

Get in Touch

Calls are charged at the same rate as a local call, whether made from a landline or mobile phone

Manchester Community Central
FREEPOST NAT4553
Manchester M60 3BR

Telephone Information Service 0333 321 3021
Email info@mcrcommunitycentral.org
Web www.manchestercommunitycentral.org