

Manchester Community Central Quarterly News

Issue
Summer 2013

In this issue

- 2-3 Updates from us
- 3 Chief Executive's update
- 4-5 Volunteering news
- 6-7 Support for groups news
- 8 Training news
- 9 Funding and commissioning
- 10-11 Local news and events
- 12-13 Manchester's groups
- 14-15 Policy and influence

Manchester's Voluntary Sector Assembly

Come along to the next Assembly on:
Tuesday 17 September 2013, 12.45pm-4.30pm
at the Mechanics Institute



This Assembly focuses on the impact of cuts in welfare funding on the people of Manchester and on voluntary and community organisations, and how we should respond.

There will be presentations and workshops on campaigning, how to deal with losing funding and on reshaping welfare provision. There will also be updates on what's happening in Manchester, and opportunities to meet other organisations and share your experience of the impact of cuts on the people of Manchester.

The assembly will also include a Small Groups and Front Line Workers Forum and a Chief Officers / Trustees / Senior Managers Forum.

During the break there will be tea and cake so you can catch up with colleagues from other groups.

The assembly is held quarterly and strengthens the voice of the local voluntary and community sector. It is a space to learn, network, debate issues and develop a collective view / position. **To book a place, contact Pauline on 0161 834 9823, or email: pauline@macc.org.uk**

Supporting our
Voluntary and
Community
Sector

Updates from us

Update on Manchester's Star Standard



In the last newsletter we told you about a new quality standard initiative we are piloting. Thanks for your interest so far.

We are currently confirming our 10 pilot groups and the Capacity Building team are about to undergo training on being STAR mentors.

The nine elements covered in STAR are:

1. Purpose, position and responsibility
2. Planning, reviewing and managing
3. Your people

4. Your relationships
5. Managing your money and resources
6. Your services and customers
7. Being clear, fair and accessible
8. Being prepared, managing risk

We will be developing a dedicated page on our website for STAR where you will be able to see the journey groups have begun and learn more about the process. We are also talking to commissioners in the city to ensure the Standard is valued and recognised.

Spirit of Manchester Awards



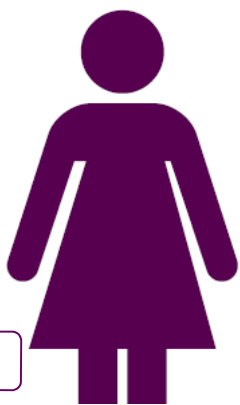
The first Spirit of Manchester Awards has now closed for nominations. The award is to celebrate and

highlight all the great work being done in Manchester's voluntary and community sector.

The Manchester Community Reporters will be making films of the shortlisted nominees which will be shown on our website.

The awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 26 September and presentations will be made by the Lord Mayor of Manchester. It will be an interactive evening with participants voting on the shortlisted films to determine the winner in each category.

For more information, visit:
www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/spirit-manchester-awards



Updates from us

Chief Executive's update



Apparently, the 'recovery' has started but does it really feel that way? It seems to me that the job of our sector is increasingly about helping

people survive this 'recovery':

- Developing services which respond to people's immediate needs
- Keeping a balance between driving social change and meeting need
- Being smarter with our resources - sharing and collaborating
- Saying if we're working to meet needs which we believe shouldn't arise in a country as wealthy as the UK - e.g. food banks
- Saying what we can see happening, particularly strengthening the voices of the seldom-heard

Macc helps build resilient, capable organisations: alongside our existing services, we're working with partners on new support e.g. a funding fair, the STAR kitemark and advice on social investment.

Looking wider, we're working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies on an economic approach which is inclusive of all local people. This approach must balance the traditional money-driven view of the economy with social growth. It should make use of the wealth of effort, creativity and energy in the voluntary and community sector. We need to develop something more creative, sustainable, equitable and inclusive than we had before the recession.

The Voluntary Sector Assembly will be discussing all this so please do get involved in the meetings or online debates.

Mike Wild, Chief Executive, Macc

Manchester Funding Fair

**Friday 13 September 2013, 10am-4pm
at The King's House Conference Centre,
Sidney Street, Manchester, M1 7HB**

Manchester Community Central, the Manchester Transforming Local Infrastructure Partnership and Third Sector Essentials are organising the Manchester Funding Fair 2013. The fair will provide opportunities for voluntary and community sector groups, social enterprises and community interest companies to meet with local, regional and national funders.

The aims of the Fair are to:

- Provide local voluntary and community sector organisations with information about current and future funding opportunities
- Provide access to funding bodies
- Provide information about new forms of social investment that are available to the sector
- Provide a showcase for the achievements of the Transforming Local Infrastructure Programme
- Highlight and explore current key issues affecting the sector in Manchester

More details of the workshops will be announced shortly. Keep checking our website over the next few weeks for updates on the Fair and news of workshops, funders and exhibitors.

The Funding Fair will be your opportunity to meet with funders and to hear about exciting developments in the sector in Manchester.

To book a place, visit:

www.manchesterfundingfair2013.eventbrite.com

Featured volunteering opportunity

Social Media Surgery volunteers

Do you have experience of using social media?

Can you help others starting out?

Volunteer as a Social Media Surgeon!

You will be helping people from voluntary and community groups get started or solve any issues they are having.

These informal monthly sessions match people up with the best surgeon for their particular issue.

It could be anything from how to set up a Twitter account to how an organisation could best use social media.

Find out more here:
<http://tinyurl.com/SMsurgeon>

Volunteer reward and recognition

We are in the process of developing a programme to reward volunteers for the invaluable time that they give to the city. If you want to take part you will be asked to record the number of hours you spend helping out at events and other opportunities.

Once you have reached certain milestones you will be rewarded for your contribution!

You can start recording your hours now at:

www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk - click on the yellow log your volunteer hours box.



Volunteer Centre Manchester Evaluation

Please could you spare a few minutes to complete a quick questionnaire to find out how we are doing?

Volunteers complete -

The Volunteer Centre service evaluation form:

<http://tinyurl.com/VCMevaluation>

Volunteering experience survey:

<http://tinyurl.com/VCMexpsurvey>

Organisations complete -

The Volunteer Centre service evaluation form:

<http://tinyurl.com/VCMorgs>

Have you applied for an opportunity and not heard from the placement?

If you have applied for an opportunity and haven't heard back from the organisation ten days after applying, please contact the Volunteer Centre Team on 0161 830 4770. We can find out what's happening for you.



Upcoming Training

Level 1 Award in volunteering

For Manchester organisations and volunteers only. In association with Volunteer Centre Manchester and Manchester Adult Education Service.

Dates: 16, 23, 30 September and 7, 14, 21 October

Time: 9.30am-3pm

You must attend all six days to complete the course

This qualification is suitable for anyone who is thinking about working as a volunteer and people already volunteering. It will provide an insight into the role and what is required of volunteers.

For more information: <http://bit.ly/11y39FJ>

GiveGetGo! is back in North Manchester

GiveGetGo! is a free, six session programme, exploring volunteering opportunities and offering hands-on volunteering experience for young people. It is for anyone aged 16 to 19 from the Harpurhey and Charlestown areas. Learn more about volunteering, gain some experience and learn new skills for their CV.

For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/Givegetgo>

Manchester Social Media Surgery

If you want help with creating a Facebook page or tweeting come to a Social Media Surgery. They are the last Thursday of every month and are free to volunteers and voluntary and community groups. Next surgery: Thursday 29 August, 2.30pm-4.30pm

For more information: <http://bit.ly/14rPz8J>



Training courses

View the latest volunteering related courses:

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/volunteer-centre/training

Follow us all on Facebook and Twitter

Volunteer Centre Manchester

Twitter: www.twitter.com/@VolunteeringMcr

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VCMOfficial

Manchester Event Volunteers

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MEVOfficial



Have you looked at what your plan B may be?



Autumn 2013 will see Manchester Community Central run a series of workshops specifically for voluntary community sector organisations to help secure their future and survive in a rapidly changing business environment.

Sessions will be run subject to demand and there will be a charge applied to attending any of the sessions.

Themes include:

Making a case for your project

How do you know...

- Your project is needed?
- You are the right people to deliver?
- You will make a difference?

Business strategy

- How to develop a sustainable business strategy
- How to make a strong business case for your project, and develop a robust business plan
- How to choose an appropriate legal structure and risk manage your project

Human resources

- How to ensure your organisation is complying with the law
- How to decommission a project in a managed way
- What are your rights and responsibilities as an employee / employer

Support for groups news

Funding

- How to identify and secure funding for your project
- How to write successful funding applications
- How to create a sustainable income generation strategy, including how to secure and manage a donor database

Finance management

- How to manage your organisations finances, including book-keeping, budgeting and cashflow forecasting
- What finance controls do you need in place
- What you need to know about charity tax

How to run a funded service or project

- What do you need in place to ensure your service or project is well-managed?
- Do you know how to monitor and evaluate your service or project?
- What is a quality standard and why would you want one?

If you are interested in attending any of the sessions, or if you would like further information please email:

training@mcrcommunitycentral.org or telephone 0333 321 3021.

All information on the programme will be added to the Manchester Community Central website:

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org

Contact our Telephone Information Service

0333 321 3021

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

Our Website



We are developing and redesigning our website to include some new features that have been produced as part of our Transforming Local Infrastructure programme.

Can you help?

We would like your help to make sure that the website is easy to navigate and user friendly.

Do you have a couple of hours to spare in September to be involved in a focus group to test our new website?

If you'd like to get involved please email us at: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Training Questionnaire - 2013



In partnership with Volunteer Centre Manchester and Manchester Transforming Local Infrastructure partners.

Strong and healthy organisations need well-trained staff and members to operate effectively.

Help us to support you

This questionnaire is an ideal opportunity to tell us what training you are looking for, any barriers faced by you or your organisation in accessing training and how you would like to see training delivered in the future.

All the results will assist us in assessing needs, understand the barriers faced and identify common training trends which will influence our training offer to members of voluntary community sector organisations.

To complete the questionnaire please visit:

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/training-needs-questionnaire2013

Please answer as many of the 20 questions possible.

The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

The questionnaire will close in September after which a summary of the results will be made available on the website.

If you require any assistance with completing the questionnaire or would like a paper copy please call Manchester Community Central on 0333 321 3021.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

Funding and Commissioning



Community Assets and Services Grants

Are you thinking of running a local service or taking over the management of a local building or land of community value?

There are a range of grants available to help you with the process of taking over a service or an asset.

My Community Rights

Pre-feasibility grants:

These are grants of £5,000 to £10,000 which are designed to help you build the internal capacity of your organisation to be able to deliver services or take on ownership of buildings and land. Some of the ways you might use these grants include:

- To undertake work to assess and address the capacity of your organisation to bid for service delivery contracts, to deliver services, or to own and manage buildings and land
- Improve your governance and leadership
- Support the costs of incorporation or forming a consortium
- Coaching and mentoring for existing staff to build their skills for service delivery or asset management

Feasibility grants:

These grants of up to £100,000 are to help your organisation carry out detailed feasibility work in preparation for bidding for service contracts or for developing project and business plans for asset development and ownership. This might include:

- Development of comprehensive business plans
- Covering the costs of external expertise to advise you on issues such as TUPE which might apply when you are bidding to deliver a particular service
- Professional fees related to building related activities, e.g. architects, drawings, ground/building surveys, planning consent and lease negotiations

Capital grants:

Capital grants between £100,000 and £500,000 are available to organisations ready to take the next step in acquiring a local asset. Interested organisations can submit an Expression of Interest until 30 August 2013.

For more information and to apply, visit: www.sibgroup.org.uk/communityrights/ or contact 0845 345 4564 to find out which grant is most suitable for you.

Spot purchasing

Spot purchasing is a new and strange idea to many voluntary organisations but is becoming more common as public bodies seek to reduce costs. It can be a far riskier form of funding if it contributes significantly to the financial viability of an organisation, as there are usually no guarantees of income, unlike grants or fixed contracts.

Nigel Rose, Macc's Strategic Lead on Commissioning, has written a blog post about the risks and considerations in developing a pricing plan. To read Nigel's blog, visit: www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/spot-purchasing

The 2013 Manchester Sleepout

For one night only the Booth Centre are sleeping out to highlight some of the hardships that homeless people have to face every single night.

The Booth Centre are inviting you to join them on Friday 8 November 2013 from 8pm at the Manchester Cathedral and raise vital funds for the Booth Centre, a charity that provides activities, advice and support to homeless people in Manchester. Are you up to the challenge?

To find out more and register, visit: www.boothcentre.org.uk or contact 0161 835 2499, or email: sleepout@boothcentre.org.uk



Disabled People's Voice Network

Breakthrough UK want to ensure disabled people are heard.

Would you like to be involved in shaping plans which make a difference to disabled people's lives?



Breakthrough UK Ltd is a Manchester based disabled people's organisation. They aim to promote the independence and integration of disabled people into society and work to influence change at local and national level, with the involvement of disabled people.

Members of the Voice Network are volunteers who contribute to research projects, focus / design groups, consultations and reports. Expenses are covered.

For more information, contact Elaine Astley, on 0161 273 5412, or email: e.astley@breakthrough-uk.co.uk

New services from Alzheimer's Society

Activity groups for people with dementia in north and south Manchester

These groups will be small and supportive, enabling opportunities for people to chat, make new friendships and participate in stimulating activities.

They will each meet fortnightly on either a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon at community venues.

Carer information and support workshops (for relatives or friends of people with dementia).

Daytime and evening courses will start in September at venues across the city.

Numbers for both new services are limited. Contact the office on 0161 342 0797 or email: Manchester@alzheimers.org.uk for more information or to book a place.



Do you want your news / event included?
Let us know by emailing:
info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Manchester Action on Street Health (MASH) new website

www.mash.org.uk

MASH has supported female sex workers for over 20 years. The women MASH supports have all had different experiences and lifestyles and MASH is here to help them look to the future.

The website contains stories from women MASH are working with, information about when the drop-in centre and the outreach van is available. It also links to schemes about dodgy punters, and details of the different ways women can access the services.

It is one of a few places that women sex workers can get relevant and up-to-date information online, and it will become a key part of the support package from MASH.

MASH are holding their first ever sponsored abseil to raise funds, down Trafford Centre Bell Tower on 22 September. For more information, visit:
www.mash.org.uk/get-involved/how-can-you-raise-money-for-mash/



Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme (RSVP)

RSVP is unique - projects are organised and led by volunteers aged 50+ so there are no limits; opportunities with RSVP are as diverse as you are. If you have the passion, energy and enthusiasm, you can make things happen in your community.

RSVP currently have a wide range of volunteer led projects being run across Manchester, including knitting, games, film clubs and art groups.

If you would like to set up and lead your own project in Manchester or if you would like to support or take part in a local project, contact Rebecca Parsons on 0161 234 4402, or email: rparsons@csv.org.uk



Human Resources Support

Wood Street Mission



Wood Street Mission is a registered children's charity based in Manchester that helps alleviate

the effects of poverty on local children and their families through practical help by providing clothing, bedding, baby equipment, school uniform, a book club and also Christmas and Easter projects. The families receiving support live throughout the wards of Manchester and Salford.

The Trustees of Wood Street Mission contacted Manchester Community Central in 2012 for support to carry out an independent job evaluation and pay review of its staff. Meeting with the trustees enabled us to gain a more detailed picture of the charity and lead to us also recommending strategic planning as part of the support process.

We provided a consultant to work closely with the charity and its trustees to develop a strategic plan and action plan. We also linked the group to a HR specialist who carried out the

independent job evaluation, pay review and supported the trustees to develop a pay policy for the future.

The group said:

“The consultant worked with us on the strategic review - he dug deep into the organisation looking at what we do now as well as our ambitions building up to our 150th anniversary in 2019.

He has enabled us to come up with a strategy as well as an action plan to assist us in achieving our aims. In no way could we have achieved all this on our own.”

“The HR consultant assisted us with the pay review. It was important

that the pay review was carried out independently.”

“Both consultants worked closely with staff, trustees and, for the strategic planning, also with our supporters.”

“We are very grateful for the support that Manchester Community Central has given us.”



Manchester's groups



Incorporation and funding support

Rock of Ages Diabetes Association

Rock of Ages Diabetes Association (RADA) has been set up to provide mental and physical help and support to sufferers of diabetes in the black communities in Manchester. RADA also has the mission of educating the public in all matters of diabetes by running awareness day campaigns.

RADA contacted Manchester Community Central because they were new and needed knowledge, help and support with networking, funding and training.

We helped RADA to develop their constitution and charitable aims and to complete an application for National Lottery funding and we also provided training on how to use our funding portal.

RADA are now an established charity in Manchester and runs a drop in centre every Tuesday where sufferers of diabetes can come for opportunities to meet with other people with the same

condition, get up to date information, get help with diabetes self-management, education, and attend forums. The group now also have funding available for a pay as you go gym for people affected with diabetes, for social events and to support more people.

C.Lutundula,
Chairman RADA said:

“We are pleased to announce that we are now a registered charity since

yesterday. Thank you for your continuous support to our organisation. Thanks to all your fantastic team.”

“I am pleased to confirm that our project has been approved for funding by the Big Lottery.”



Living Longer, Living Better – What is it and should the sector be involved?

'Living Longer, Living Better' is a large programme of work agreed by the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board (JWHB) to progress integrated care services across the whole of Manchester - better co-ordinated care for targeted population groups in Manchester. The priority targeted groups will be: the over 75s; older people with dementia; adults and children needing End of Life care; and those with long term conditions. Other areas include children at school, adults in work who need to change their lifestyles, and carers.



The voluntary and community sector (VCS) are only involved through the JHWP and those organisations who have been engaged with the Integrated Care Pilot in Central Manchester.

There are three key areas of focus: people; outcomes; and a whole systems approach.

Priority targeted groups are already facing huge inequalities and further cuts in public services could add to them unless there is a focus on effective interventions delivered with a co-ordinated approach. An important factor is the need for health and social care statutory services to collaborate

with the VCS in order to deliver this programme of work which will include:

1. Keeping people well and maintaining their independence - including primary care and wellbeing
2. Addressing the wider determinants of health and ageing well - social isolation, looking at access to suitable housing, public transport and leisure activities
3. Social care - including intermediate care and care co-ordination

Further information can be found here: <http://bit.ly/living-longer>

Macc believes that the VCS should warmly welcome the emphasis on better integration of health and social care. The sector knows that further cuts to frontline care and support will be devastating to many of the 'targeted' population groups, but especially to older people and carers. The VCS has a vital role to play in shaping local care and support services, but at what point and how does the sector engage with this programme of work?

The VCS has valuable experience that needs to be used. We need to work with the JHWP to develop models of care and support that are designed with and for individuals. This could be an opportunity to make a difference and bring about changes that will address the inequalities people face. Please send your comments to Mary Duncan at: mary@macc.org.uk

You heard it through the grapevine?

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) Grants

There will be a fund of £550,000 from the three Manchester CCGs available soon to Manchester groups.



The theme is around reducing isolation and loneliness with the longer-term aim of developing the case for CCGs to devote more of their funding toward primary prevention. Evaluation will play a key role.

Social isolation and loneliness has major impacts on the health and wellbeing of the priority targeted groups, including older people. There is overwhelming evidence to say that reducing social isolation and loneliness can improve an individual's health and reduce the demand for health and social care services in the long term.

The proposal so far is that there will be two types of grants - a pot for bids of £5,000-£10,000 and one for bids of £10,000-£50,000. Projects can run for up to 18 months.

A programme board is being appointed and the initiative will be managed and administered by Macc and the Charity service. There is no start date for the scheme yet, but more information will be available soon.

Closure of Day Centres

Manchester City Council recently proposed to save £1.7million by closing four Day Centres.

These plans were not supported by the Council's Health and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 18 July because the Committee accepted the argument that these closures would not 'protect the most vulnerable', and would have a negative impact on individual service users, their families and carers. They agreed with the Chair that this would not save money in the long term.

The Council's Executive group overturned this decision a few days later and confirmed the closure of two out of the four proposed closures - the Eric Hobin Centre in Chalestown and the Northfield Centre in Moston.

Macc is unclear how this decision fits with the 'Living Longer, Living Better' programme of work and the vision for integrated and co-ordinated services?

We would also wonder about the role of the Scrutiny Committee as they considered the evidence and made recommendations on how services can be improved, taking into account a number of issues including the protection and safeguarding of adults in receipt of health and social care services.

How is the Executive Group able to seemingly dismiss these findings and go ahead with the closures?

Get in touch



Managed by Macc

Telephone information service:

0333 321 3021

Email:

info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Web:

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org

Twitter: **@McrCommCentral**

Telephone:

0161 830 4770

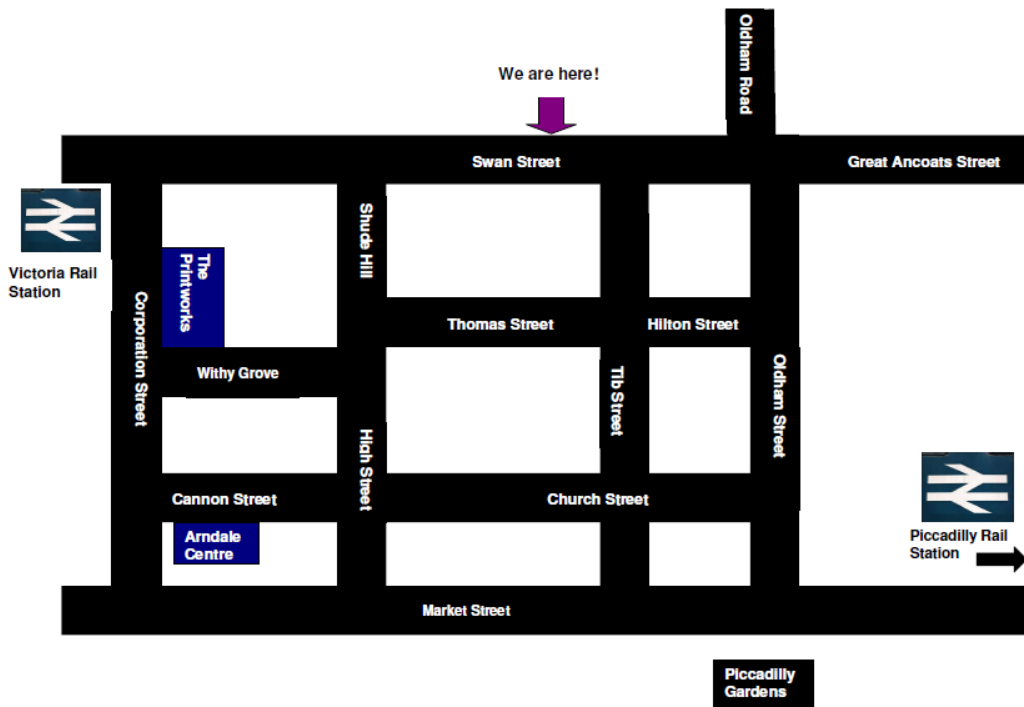
Email:

info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk

Web:

www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk

Twitter: **@VolunteeringMcr**



Our funders:



Do you want your news / event included in our newsletter? Let us know by emailing: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

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 copy of the newsletter then email us at: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org and let us know if you would like to receive a copy by email or by post