

Manchester Community Central Quarterly News

Issue Spring 2013

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Supporting our Voluntary and Community Sector

Planning for the future – tools and skills to survive

Come along to the next Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly on:
Tuesday 11 June 2013, 1.00pm - 4.30pm at the Mechanics Institute

The role of the Assembly is to strengthen the voice of the local sector. Assembly events are an important space for organisations to get together and learn, make contacts, debate issues and develop how we work with the public and commercial sectors. It's open to smaller groups and large charities working in the City of Manchester.



This Assembly event is designed so that you can choose whatever workshops will best meet your needs - e.g. if you're a small group and want practical support or if you're the Chief Exec of a larger charity and want to explore new partnerships and opportunities. It's a chance to:

- share news, tips and advice on what's happening locally around funding and services
- build connections between organisations with shared issues
- look at the pressures everyone is under and inform Macc about what additional support / resources you need

The event will also launch our State of the Voluntary Sector research report and Mike Wild, Chief Executive of Macc will present a briefing on the findings.

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

To book a place, contact Pauline, on 0161 834 9823, or email: pauline@macc.org.uk



Updates from us

Macc needs you!

Macc provides services to a wide cross section of the City of Manchester's Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors. However we have only a small, but very select membership!

Manchester

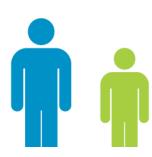


A great many groups and organisations THINK they have Macc membership but the reality is if you have not applied for Macc membership in the last year then you're probably not a member!

Our aim is to increase our membership to reflect the organisations and groups who share our vision, values and mission to improve the quality of life and access to opportunities for all the residents of the City of Manchester.

Macc membership is free this year whilst we develop a full membership package and benefits.





Affiliate membership is available to all interested parties.

Full membership is available to constituted groups and also gives groups and organisations a vote at our Annual General Meetings or any Extraordinary General Meetings.

So if you value our services and share our goals please apply for Macc membership today, by visiting: www.macc.org.uk

Welcome to new staff at Macc!

There are some more new faces at Macc.



Kerry FennelReception Worker



Fran LusackVolunteering Development
Worker



Beth PlantPolicy and Voice Team
Manager



Sefton SimpsonBusiness Improvement
Co-ordinator

Updates from us

Chief Executive's update



During this month I'm helping to launch Manchester's first ever 'State of the Voluntary Sector' report which

shows the sheer scale of the contribution the sector makes to life in the city. Our biggest challenge is to protect the sector by helping local groups as funding pressures bite while demand for their services increases.

One consequence of this has been very clear in recent weeks: the number of people we're losing from the sector at the moment. Every few days I get an email that someone else is leaving, many who've been familiar faces in the City for a long time, colleagues and friends. It's a sad but inevitable fact that we're losing experience and talents from the sector. Yet it's also a reminder that ultimately the purpose of the sector is the people we're there to support. We've seen some tremendous leadership as people make the most painful decisions any manager has to make in order to ensure vital services and activities can continue.

Inside this new-look newsletter you'll find updates on the work we're doing to support local voluntary and community groups during this difficult time: we're here to help.

Mike Wild Chief Executive, Macc

Introducing the STAR Standard

Do you hear about quality marks and wonder whether they are appropriate for your organisation?

Through the Transforming Local Infrastructure programme we are running a pilot later this year of the STAR Standard. The pilot will particularly focus on groups involved in health-related activities.



STAR is a quality standard that is designed to enable voluntary sector groups to:

- Demonstrate their effectiveness and contribution to local agendas
- Demonstrate the quality of systems and services of voluntary, community and faith organisations
- Identify the gaps and areas for development to improve delivery and funding opportunities

An externally accredited scheme, we believe it can compliment our business improvement services. It will help groups to identify the gaps and areas for development to improve delivery and funding opportunities.

This work is in its early stages. If you would like to receive further information about the STAR when it becomes available you can register your interest by emailing: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org quoting 'STAR standard'



Volunteering news

Upcoming meetings

Volunteer Co-ordinator Forum (VCF) Meeting - May

Friday 31 May 2013, 10am-12pm at Macc Book your place online at http://bit.ly/ZDU3JC

Volunteer Co-ordinator Forum (VCF) Meeting - July

Wednesday 10 July 2013, 10am-12pm, Macc

Both meetings are at Macc, Third Floor, Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street, Manchester, M4 5JW

You can find previous VCF and VCN minutes and meeting packs online. Please visit:

VCF - http://tinyurl.com/ vcfminutes

VCN - http://tinyurl.com/ vcnminutes

If you have any agenda items, please email Mark Pritchard at:

mark@macc.org.uk

Need help with volunteers?

Sign up with Volunteer Centre Manchester

If you are a City of Manchester based organisation and would like some help with recruiting and retaining volunteers, or need help with your policies and procedures, you can book an appointment with Volunteer Centre Manchester at:



www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk

If your organisation works in Manchester and involves volunteers, you can now register with Volunteer Centre Manchester.

You will need to register your organisation first before submitting opportunities but the process only takes a few minutes.

To register with Volunteer Centre Manchester, submit a volunteering opportunity and to register as a volunteer, visit our website: www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk

Volunteers' Week 1-7 June

The Volunteers' Week website is now live at:

http://volunteersweek.org/







Volunteering news

Free CRB (DBS) checks for Manchester Volunteers

Volunteer Centre Manchester and CRB (DBS) Services Manchester are working in partnership to support Manchester's community and volunteering groups.



What are the criteria for Free CRB (DBS) Checks?

Free volunteer checks through Volunteer Centre Manchester are only available for volunteers who are Manchester residents (i.e. those who pay their Council Tax to Manchester City Council). To access the service please visit: www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/volunteer-centre/crb

In addition to this you will get access to discounted CRB (DBS) checks for your paid staff, access to training and advice on safe recruitment, conviction disclosure and expert CRB (DBS) guidance.

For costs and more information on CRB (DBS) checks for non Manchester residents or paid staff please visit: www.crbmanchester.co.uk/ or email: crb@qaddumcentre.co.uk

Training - Health Champion Training Understanding Health Improvement Level 2

(For city of Manchester organisations and volunteers only)

Would you like to offer individuals practical support in making healthy lifestyle choices for themselves? If so you are in an ideal position to become a Health Champion and join the Manchester Health Champion Network. The first step to becoming a Health Champion is to



undertake the Royal Society for Public Health Understanding Health Improvement accredited training.

There are 10 places on the next course which will take place on:

Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 29 May 2013, 9.30am-3.30pm

Reserve a place: www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/volunteer-centre/training



Support for groups news

Funding Programmes Support

Over the past five months, the Capacity Building team at Manchester Community Central has co-ordinated and delivered specific funding support to over **89 Manchester voluntary and community groups**. This support was customised to aid groups

considering applying to the following Manchester City Council funding programmes:

 Manchester Youth Fund and Play Fund

 Manchester Equalities Funding programme

Community
 Association Funding
 Programme

The support and advice we provided took different forms, including workshops, telephone support, Business Improvement Co-ordinator support and consultant one-to-one support. We also provided relevant website resources which were open to all; these included a FAQ list, presentations, video and other resources from the workshops.

We are sending out a Survey Monkey via email and in the ebulletin so that you have the opportunity to feed back anonymously on the support your group received.

If you were one of the groups which accessed some or all of the support available, then we would love to know what you thought of the service you received.

Whether you attended a workshop or simply accessed resources from the

website, it will be helpful to receive honest feedback to learn what worked well and what could have been better. We will use this feedback to inform our planning of future support, so this is your opportunity to tell us your views!



If you do not have computer or internet access but would still like to complete the survey, please request a paper copy by either ringing us on 0333 321 3021 or sending an email to: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

The survey will close on **31 May 2013** - don't miss your opportunity to give feedback!

Thank you
Capacity Building Team

Contact our Telephone Information Service

0333 321 3021

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

Training news



When was the last time you looked at...?

Manchester Community Central will be running a series of workshops specifically for voluntary community sector organisations within the city of Manchester.

In a rapidly changing business environment we have developed a programme focusing on key issues to help you secure your organisations future.

Key areas will be:

Making a case for your project

Business Strategy

HR

Funding

Finance Management

Project Management

These workshops are essential if you are looking at your organisations sustainability in the future.

Don't miss this opportunity to get advice and guidance on how to survive.

If you are interested in attending please register your interest by emailing: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org or telephone 0333 321 3021.

There will be a small charge for these workshops.

Our Website



We are developing and redesigning our website to include new features that have been developed 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 August / 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 news

Get your story out - Community Reporters

We want your articles to be in this new format newsletter to show all the great work being done in Manchester's voluntary and community sector!

The website is being redeveloped to be as interactive and searchable as possible.

Do you want to highlight the work your community group is doing in Manchester?

You could encourage new volunteers or even potential funders.

Why not train to become a Community Reporter and join the Manchester network, or get in touch so we can help you tell your story.

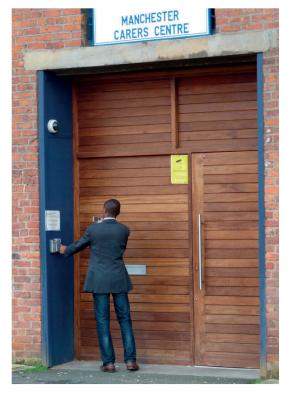
Manchester Community Reporters are accredited

by the Institute of Community Reporters.

As part of Manchester Community Central we now have a number of Manchester Community Reporter trainers who can give your group the skills to report on your work.

MyManchester

All the content created video, audio and written will be uploaded to the MyManchester website: http://mymanchester.net/



Maybe you would like to become a Silver Community Reporter and attend a three day training course in planning, filming/recording and editing a film or piece of audio to upload to the web?

Or you could take part in a 12 session programme to become a Gold Community Reporter and understand how to present a story and produce content across different formats.

If you are interested in training or want to know more about the Manchester Community Reporters project please email: hannah@macc.org.uk

Funding and Tendering



Did you know that there is a pot of money available in each ward for community led projects?

MANCHESTER

The Cash grants scheme aims to help local residents and community groups take on the projects that can make a real difference to their lives and neighbourhoods.

To apply, contact your Regeneration Ward Officer, on 0161 234 3159, or email: cashgrants@manchester.gov.uk

We Love MCR Charity Grants

Applications are invited from Manchester based Charities, organisations and others to the 'We Love MCR Charity', the Lord Mayor of Manchester's Charity Appeal Trust.

The Charity's primary aim is to improve the lives and life chances of Manchester people. Help develop stronger communities by encouraging more citizens to be active in working together to strengthen their community.

To apply, visit:

www.welovemcrcharity.org, or contact 0161 234 3229, or email: welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk

Massive changes are happening in the world of commissioning

The Local Authority will shortly announce a new structure which will join all of their commissioners together into an area based approach which will cover the same areas as the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG).

The new Citywide Commissioning and Quality Unit is leading a nine month process to review the CCG spending on the voluntary and community sector.

The Office of Police Commissioner is developing a completely new process for commissioning all services. All are talking about the need to reduce transaction costs by reducing the number of organisations they contract directly as their own resources are too stretched.

At a national level there has been criticism of the Work Programme but despite this the government is proposing to use a similar framework for contracting out Probation Services.

I have been meeting commissioners, talking to voluntary groups and networks and helping public authorities to design voluntary sector friendly commissioning processes. I have also begun to create a commissioning intentions database.

A fuller introduction to my role can be found on the Manchester Community Central website as well as my blog. You can follow me on twitter @NigelMacc

Nigel Rose Strategic Lead on Commissioning

Local news

Cracking

Good FOOd

Cracking Good Food

Manchester Food and Drink Festival Awards Food and Drink Pioneers shortlistee Cracking Good Food (CGF) has just celebrated its third birthday.

The not-for-profit organisation runs cook and dine sessions for the general public and community-based groups, along with hands-on cooking demonstrations as part of festivals and community events, plus workshops on wild food foraging. There's more on these ventures on the Cracking Good Food website: www.crackinggoodfood.org and the Cracking Cooks blog: http://crackingcooks.blogspot.com

Over the summer, CGF will be foraging for elderflowers on Chorlton Ees, making pasta from scratch in Altrincham, taking a Spice Walk round Whalley Range, and baking the best bread in Manchester!

And on Saturday 18 May, between 1pm and 4pm, Cracking Good Food is teaming up with Manchester City Council to run a free Cooks On The Hop events, popping up in Chorlton Precinct to encourage passersby to plant seeds and cook stuffed pancakes using homegrown vegetables.

Rock of Ages Diabetes Association

Rock of Ages Diabetes Association (RADA) has been set to raise awareness of diabetes tests in the Black African community of Manchester and support those living with diabetes in the same community.

RADA are committed to lead the fight of diabetes as research show that black people are three times more at risk but there is low awareness.



RADA provides free diabetes tests and networks with various local GP, local diabetes centres and Diabetes UK to provide all the necessary information and means to prevent the disease from developing.

RADA also organise sports and social events to keep diabetics active as part of their diabetes management to stay in good health as long as possible.

At their drop-in support centre people have a great opportunity to meet with other people in similar situations to share experiences and participate in forums with guest speakers including dieticians, nurses and GPs. The group is run by trained volunteers. For further information, visit: www.rockofagesmanc.org.uk





and events

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

Homestart Manchester North is looking for volunteers!

HomeStart Manchester North recruits and trains local parent volunteers to provide weekly emotional and practical home visiting support to families with at least one child under the age of five years.

Homestart Manchester North need people with parenting experience to offer weekly emotional and practical support to families that are struggling and have at least one child under five. The next training course starts in June 2013.



For further information, visit: www.homestartmanchesternorth.org.uk, or telephone 0161 721 4493, email: info@homestartmcrnorth.org.uk

The right advice at the right time

Have you been made redundant and are unsure of your next move? Are you returning to work from time out? Have you been volunteering and now want to embark on a career?

Perhaps you have just finished college or university and are considering your next move. You might be unhappy in your current job and ready for a change, but not sure what. You might have been out of work for a while and looking for job hunting tips.



The National Careers Service provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential and impartial advice supported by qualified careers advisers. The service can be accessed online, over the phone or through an appointment with an adviser (for adults) in the community.

To speak to an adviser from the National Careers Service call 0800 100 900 and book an appointment, alternatively you can visit the National Careers Service website: http://direct.gov.uk/nationalcareersservice

Zest Blog - The most up to date information at your fingertips

Zest is the healthy living network for North and East Manchester. For all the latest and most up to date information on Zest and partner activities please check out their blog:

www.zestactivities.blogspot.com

The blog is updated daily with lots of great information including activities, events, funding and training opportunities.

ZEST For a healthier life in North Manchester

If you would like anything added to the blog email Laura at Zest at: I.cassidy@manchester.gov.uk



Manchester's groups

Group Development and Funding Support

Newton Heath Youth Project

Newton Heath Youth Project was started as a response to the closure of statutory youth provision by Manchester City Council. Former youth workers from Manchester City Council campaigned for

statutory provisions to be maintained. When the service was disestablished, the workers were approached by local young people and residents who asked if the workers could still provide a youth service.

The Group completed their application to Reaching Communities and we helped the group to secure £224,000 in December 2012, to run their project until 2016.

The Newton Heath Youth Project will begin delivering youth work in Newton Heath in May 2013.

We asked their Chief Officer for a comment about the support they received and she told us:

The group approached Manchester Community Central for support in establishing the project on a formal basis. They started by creating an unincorporated association to develop the plan for the youth services and used the association to develop the ideas. It became clear this wasn't the best structure for the proposed project.

Using the Get Legal website and following discussion the group agreed that the most suitable structure would be a Community Interest Company (CIC).

The Youth workers created the CIC and incorporated in January 2012. They subsequently approached us for support to develop an application for funding.

"Well what can I say other than without you what would we have done! Your support was and always will be greatly appreciated by the Newton Heath community and me personally, and as for you you must rue the day you answered the phone"

Manchester's groups

Choosing a legal structure Northern Quarter Greening CIC

Northern Quarter Greening is a group set up by local residents to try and make the Northern Quarter in Manchester a greener, more pleasant place. They work

with local organisations and volunteers to try and bring about sustainable and lasting improvements to Manchester's green credentials.

They rely entirely on charitable donations and grants, as well as members' pockets. They

are committed to making the Northern Quarter a greener, more wildlife friendly place for the benefit of all.

The group contacted us for support when they received two letters, one from HM Revenue and Customs and one from Companies House. HMRC indicated that they believed that the Northern Quarter Greening CIC was a dormant company. Companies house were asking for the annual return for the CIC. The annual return is requested on the anniversary of the incorporation of the company.

We discussed whether the company was dormant and after a brief assessment it became clear that the Company had applied for and received grants to carry out their activities and they therefore had an income and were an 'Active' company.

We suggested that they contact a local accountancy service for help in preparing their annual accounts and annual return.

The group are also investigating the requirements for filing online with Companies House for accounts and their annual return. The CIC had been created as the preferred legal structure because

this allowed them to fund raise e.g. via a website. The group is now reconsidering its position, in view of the additional reporting requirements of an incorporated organisation for a small scale community led group.



For more information on choosing the right structure for your community activity, visit: www.getlegal.org.uk

For legal updates on governance issues visit Sandy Adirondacks website: www.sandy-a.co.uk/legal.htm

For information about annual returns and annual accounts for companies, visit: www.companieshouse.gov.uk

For information about taxation matters, visit: www.hmrc.gov.uk

If you are in any doubt about the requirements for reporting to regulators or HMRC contact them and let them know your situation, always take legal advice where appropriate.

Themed

Health Wellbeing News

Macc has been meeting with officers from the Council to address concerns made by the Forum about the Sector's involvement in the new commissioning arrangements for Health and Social Care. The challenge was how the voluntary and community sector moves away from continuing to give feedback on demand to being an effective part of the decision making process.

There was general agreement that when the Forum attempted to engage in the 'process', just before the launch of the online Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2011/12, it occurred too late in the process to have any impact on the evolving JSNA priority areas of work.

Most organisations agreed that they wanted assurances that their contributions would influence decisions, before they became 'engaged'. There lies the challenge! Through developing an agreed way of working with Manchester City Council (MCC), (dare we call it a Compact?) we could work towards both informing and influencing the new commissioning structures. The Policy and Voice team have had discussions with MCC and agreed a way forward.

Healthwatch Manchester

Healthwatch Manchester is developing and is placed with Manchester Citizens Advice Bureau in Swan Buildings.

Healthwatch England organised a launch for networks in five regions/areas that were simultaneous and linked (excuse the pun) together via video for a Q&A – Manchester, Birmingham, Taunton, Leeds and London.

You can listen to Jeremy Hunt and read a transcript of the Q&A at: www.healthwatch.co.uk

Fulfilling Lives: Ageing Better

The main purpose of the funding is to support older people (over 50) who are



marginalised or most at risk of social isolation and loneliness, so that they can live 'more fulfilling lives'.

100 Local Authorities were invited to bid and Manchester is one of them.

We now understand that a decision has been made to proceed with a Greater Manchester bid.

If you need further information contact me or email Patrick Hanfling from the Valuing Older People's Team, at: p.hanfling@manchester.gov.uk



Mary Duncan Development Worker, Health and Wellbeing

Tel: 0161 834 9823

Email: mary@macc.org.uk

news



The Mental Health Recovery Network for Manchester

This Network was launched on 26 February at the St Thomas Centre. The event was jointly planned and funded by the Voluntary Sector Mental Health Forum and the Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust (MMHSCT).

What's the big idea?

The recovery network will take an integrated approach to service development by inviting all people with an interest in mental health services in Manchester to step outside of the current system into a safe space which is owned equally by everyone.

The event was chaired by Elaine Pitt Chief Executive of Manchester Mind.

Michele Moran MMHSCT Chief Executive opened the event by pledging her support and the commitment of the MMHSCT to the principles of recovery.

Keynote Speakers included:

- Nick Dixon Mental Health Commissioning Manager Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
- Jane Joel Interim Project Manager Recovery at MMHSCT

The network recognises that within mental health services there are many perspectives, viewpoints and priorities that broadly fit into groups or tribes (service users, carers, front line staff, managers and funders).

The network attempts to bring these tribes together to create a new service culture that recognises everyone as equal and having something to offer. The values, language and decision making will be negotiated and agreed as a collective group.

There is a steering group which is made up from two members of each tribe.

The next event, on the 27 June, will aim to produce a shared recovery vision statement and a recovery outcomes framework. It is intended that this will be used to guide mental health commissioning and service development across Manchester's mental health organisations.

We have set up a dedicated page on our website for the network:

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org

/mental-health-recovery-networkmanchester

To become a member of the network please email: pauline@macc.org.uk



John Butler Development Worker, Mental Health

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Get in touch



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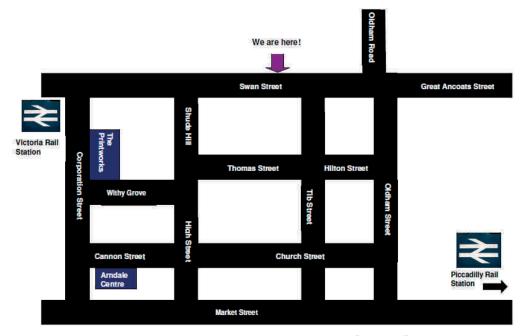
Email:

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

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