



The latest on transforming support to Manchester's voluntary and community sector

14 support organisations in Manchester are now working together to make sure local voluntary and community groups get the best support possible. Macc is the lead agency for the programme and has appointed a Communication Worker and Independent Chair.



Richard Caulfield is the Independent Chair of the Transforming Local Infrastructure programme. Richard is responsible for chairing partnership meetings, developing the partnership by building creative and collaborative relationships and working with them to develop the strategic direction of the programme. Richard will oversee and review the redesign and improvement of services delivered to local voluntary and community groups. He will work with partners to develop a sustainable strategy for voluntary sector support in Manchester, which is informed by the needs of local organisations. This will create a legacy of improved services and broader relationships across sectors. Richard is also Chief Executive Officer of Voluntary Sector North West.



Hannah Powell is the new Communications Worker in the Transforming Local Infrastructure programme and is responsible for ensuring the services on offer to groups are communicated in an accessible way. She will work with the organisations to develop their marketing and co-ordinate the sharing of skills. She also co-ordinates the Manchester Community Reporters project which will help showcase all the good work in Manchester's voluntary and community sector. Hannah previously worked as the Marketing and Information Officer at Tameside Third Sector Coalition (T3SC).

The aim of this project is for voluntary and community groups to get a clearer, joined up service, tailored to their needs, using the skills and specialities of each organisation. Fundamentally, it should be simple and easy for groups to find and use the support they need. Support services will be delivered under the umbrella of Manchester Community Central.

As the programme develops we will be updating you on the services available to groups. See the Transforming Local Infrastructure section of our website for more: www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/transforminglocalinfrastructure

We will continue to consult with local voluntary and community sector groups to understand their needs in order to inform the planning, design and delivery of services. The partnership will ensure the groups are given a voice and supported to address any issues. The programme is designed to increase the range of services and activities available to support groups.



Examples of activities include:

- **A CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checking service** for local groups and people wishing to volunteer – this service is free to voluntary and community groups that register with Volunteer Centre Manchester:
www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk
- **A 'state of the sector' survey** for Manchester – This has now been sent out and is also available on www.manchestercommunitycentral.org - remember to fill yours in! Deadline – 21 December 2012.
- **Showcasing the work of the voluntary and community sector** in Manchester through training Community Reporters – this training has already started and the Macc launch was filmed by Community Reporters with the help of People's Voice Media. See:
www.youtube.com/user/maccmanchester
- Work to improve **fundraising support** and increase donations to local groups
- Outreach work to build **relationships with the private sector**
- **A training programme for commissioners** on working with the voluntary sector
- **A training programme for voluntary and community groups on commissioning**
- Developing an **HR support service** for small and medium sized groups



For more information see the Manchester Transforming Local Infrastructure website: www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/transforminglocalinfrastructure or contact Macc on 0161 834 9823.