

VCSE REPRESENTATION ON STRATEGIC BOARDS IN MANCHESTER



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This is not a comprehensive list of strategic boards and partnerships in Manchester, but a highlight of key decision-making and influencing spaces that include VCSE representatives from the city. This document presents an overview of VCSE representation by thematic area and provides contact information for the boards. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, VCSE attendance in these spaces declined, and the Policy and Influence team at Macc is currently working to restore and enhance meaningful participation.



BUSINESS DOING GOOD ROUNDTABLE

Purpose	Set up by Shoosmiths, RSM and RBC Brewin Dolphin, this roundtable convenes charities and business to explore how they might collaborate for mutual benefit.
Convener	Shoosmiths
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Various
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Over 1 year
Contact	Richard Phillips, Macc Business Partnerships Lead - richard.phillips@macc.org.uk

POVERTY

GM COST OF LIVING RESPONSE GROUP

Purpose	A monthly cost of living response group brings together more than 50 people from across the city region – including council officers, housing providers, police and the voluntary sector – to share good practice, raise on-the-ground issues and showcase some of the support available. Currently under review.
Convener	Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Macc Resolve Poverty (formerly known as GMPA) Irish Community Care 10 GM
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2022
Contact	Elaine Morgan, GMCA Principal Strategy Reform - elaine.morgan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

DIGITAL INCLUSION STEERING GROUP

Purpose	A monthly cost of living response group brings together more than 50 people from across the city region – including council officers, housing providers, police and the voluntary sector – to share good practice, raise on-the-ground issues and showcase some of the support available. Currently under review.
Convener	Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Macc Resolve Poverty (formerly known as GMPA) Irish Community Care 10 GM
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2022
Contact	Elaine Morgan, GMCA Principal Strategy Reform - elaine.morgan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

DIGITAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

Purpose	A monthly cost of living response group brings together more than 50 people from across the city region – including council officers, housing providers, police and the voluntary sector – to share good practice, raise on-the-ground issues and showcase some of the support available. Currently under review.
Convener	Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Macc Resolve Poverty (formerly known as GMPA) Irish Community Care 10 GM
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2022
Contact	Elaine Morgan, GMCA Principal Strategy Reform - elaine.morgan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

MANCHESTER LIVING WAGE ACTION GROUP

Purpose	In this group, convened by Manchester City Council and chaired by the Director of Inclusive Economy, the MCC are working with other employers to make Manchester a fair pay city. Some big employers, public and private, are already on board and came together as the Living Wage Action Group to develop an action plan. Anchor institutions have long been recognised as playing a key role in promoting a more inclusive economy and tackling poverty given their size, budgets and the fact that they are rooted in a place. Manchester's Living Wage Action Group features key champions from across the business, statutory and voluntary and community sectors.
Convener	Manchester City Council, Chaired by Angela Harrington, Director of Inclusive Economy
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Zara Hakobyan (Macc)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2023
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, Policy & Influence Manager at Macc - zara@macc.org.uk

OUR MANCHESTER FOOD PARTNERSHIP

Purpose	Multi-agency partnership board led by MCC, working with food providers and suppliers across the city to engage in food related poverty strategy, which also include using food as a tool to engage with people regarding household costs, nutritional needs, period poverty and school uniform costs.
Convener	Manchester City Council
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Various VCSE Groups, including Healthy Me, Healthy Communities, Manchester Central Foodbank
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2021
Contact	Cormac Downey - cormac.downey@manchester.gov.uk

MANCHESTER FOOD BOARD

Purpose	The Board works to provide clarity and strategic leadership on how food can be used to bring about positive, meaningful, and lasting change in Manchester. The Board's aim is to ensure the development of a food strategy for Manchester that: prevents malnutrition and hunger in vulnerable groups; makes diets more sustainable; builds a shared, sustainable food culture across society, and engages our ethnically diverse population.
Convener	Manchester City Council
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Richard Browning, Healthy Me Healthy Communities Atiha Choudry, The BME Network
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, Policy and Influence Manager, Macc - zara@macc.org.uk



MANCHESTER FUNDERS PARTNERSHIP

Purpose	The focus of this partnership is to work collaboratively to support Manchester to have the funding conditions in place to enable a vibrant, strong, diverse and thriving VCFSE sector.
Convener	Manchester City Council
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Mike Wild (Macc)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2020
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, Policy and Influence Manager, Macc - zara@macc.org.uk

OUR MANCHESTER VCS PROGRAMME BOARD

Purpose	This programme board makes strategic and programme level decisions including resources, investment and funding round recommendations to tackle social issues. It reports to Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee on behalf of the VCSE sector and vice versa.
Convener	Manchester City Council
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Mike Wild (Macc)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2017
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, Policy and Influence Manager, Macc - zara@macc.org.uk

OUR MANCHESTER INVESTMENT BOARD

Purpose	Manchester Investment Board provides strategic leadership on the implementation of the city's priorities set out in the Our Manchester strategy. It has accountability for the development and delivery of the Our Manchester Forum, whose membership is made up of senior stakeholders from a range of sectors across the city. The Forum was established in 2014 with the express intention of shaping Manchester's long-term strategy.
Convener	Manchester City Council
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Mike Wild (Macc) Adrian Ball (Manchester Settlement) Sam Palmer (Respect For All) Heather Etheridge (Manchester Youth Zone)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, Policy and Influence Manager, Macc - zara@macc.org.uk

CITY-WIDE REFORM PROGRAMME STEERING GROUP

Purpose	The emphasis of the group is around system-wide change. It brings together GMP, GMFRS, NHS, MCC and VCSE colleagues to work together to address cross-cutting priorities - making the best use of our collective knowledge, skills, capacity and resource, this group drives the delivery of the system-wide Public Service Reform (PSR) programme in Manchester.
Convener	Manchester City Council
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Mike Wild (Macc) Adrian Ball (Manchester Settlement) Zara Hakobyan (Macc)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2024
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, Policy and Influence Manager, Macc - zara@macc.org.uk

LGBTQ+ EQUALITY PANEL

Purpose	This group provides policy guidance and advice in relation to LGBTQ+ inclusion across Greater Manchester
Convener	LGBT+ Foundation in partnership with GMCA
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Finn Grice (LGBT+ Foundation)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2021
Contact	Finn Grice, Policy and Research Manager at the LGBT+ Foundation - finn.grice@lgbt.foundation

GMCA TACKLING INEQUALITIES BOARD

Purpose	This board meets to discuss to policy delivered by GMCA with the aim of removing and reducing barriers to access GM residents facing intersections of identity and marginalisation
Convener	GMCA
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Finn Grice (LGBT + Foundation)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2024
Contact	Finn Grice, Policy and Research Manager at the LGBT+ Foundation - finn.grice@lgbt.foundation

GREATER MANCHESTER PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT (PCIE) FORUM

Purpose	This forum is a network of GM VCSE organisations working with communities of identity to support inclusion and involvement in GM policy making
Convener	The Health & Wellbeing Alliance
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Finn Grice (LGBT+ Foundation)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2024
Contact	Finn Grice, Policy and Research Manager at the LGBT+ Foundation - finn.grice@lgbt.foundation

DISABILITY



MANCHESTER DISABILITY COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIC FORUM (formally Partnership Forum)

Purpose	This is the strategic group which leads on progressing the equalities agenda for the disabled people in the city. Manchester Disability Collaborative (MDC) is multi-agency partnership comprising of disabled people and their organisations (DPOs), VCSEs, as well as public and private sector organisations; all working towards the common goal of improving equality and inclusion of disabled people in Manchester.
Convener	Breakthrough UK
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Various VCSE's (Including Macc)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2023
Contact	Jas Taylor, MDC Engagement Coordinator - j.taylor@breakthrough-uk.co.uk

HOMELESSNESS



MANCHESTER HOMELESSNESS PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Purpose	The Manchester Homelessness Partnership (MHP) board unites people with personal experience of homelessness with organisations from different sectors, to co-produce solutions together to end homelessness.
Convener	Manchester Homelessness Partnership (chaired by Dr Ruth Thompson).
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Various VCFSE's, including but not limited to: Barnabus, Booth Centre, Caritas, Albert Kennedy Trust, Centrepoint, Reach out to the Community, Coffee4Craig, Our Room, Mustard Tree, MASH, Justlife, Shared Health, Shelter, Greater Together Manchester, Boaz Trust, Citizen Advice Manchester and GMIAU.
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2016 - membership is reviewed on a yearly basis.
Contact	Val Bayliss-Brideaux, Network and Communications Worker - val@macc.org.uk

MANCHESTER HOMELESSNESS STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP

Purpose	The aim of this operational group is to reduce homelessness in all its forms and in all population types, working together to provide a forum for multi-agency collaboration in a partnership approach.
Convener	Manchester Homelessness Partnership (chaired by Barnabus).
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Various VCFSE's, including but not limited to: Coffee4Craig, Our Room, Shelter, Caritas, Shared Health Foundation, Reach out to the Community, Booth Centre, Mustard Tree, Boaz Trust, MASH, Justlife, Centrepoint, Barnabus, On the Out and GMIAU.
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2016 - membership is reviewed on a yearly basis.
Contact	Val Bayliss-Brideaux, Network and Communication Worker - val@macc.org.uk

MCR HOMELESSNESS VCFSE LEADERS ACTION GROUP

Purpose	This group connects VCFSE leaders who have a shared aim and vision in ending homelessness, peer support and in increasing homelessness support provision.
Convener	Manchester Homelessness Partnership
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Various VCFSE's, including but not limited to: Barnabus, Boaz Trust, Caritas, MASH, Centrepoin, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit, Shelter, Mustard Tree, Reach out to the Community, Coffee4Craig and Booth Centre
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2024
Contact	Val Bayliss-Brideaux, Network and Communications Worker - val@macc.org.uk

ASYLUM & MIGRATION

NORTHWEST ASYLUM CONTRACT BOARD

Purpose	The objectives of the North West Asylum Contract Board include, but are not limited to facilitating asylum dispersal within the North West and providing a partnership approach to delivery between Local Authorities, the Home Office, Providers, Statutory, VCSE and Partners.
Convener	North West Regional Strategic Migration Partnership
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Amanda Shah, GMIAU
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Over 3 years
Contact	Milly Mckinnell, GM Sanctuary Seekers Community Response Group, Macc on emily.mckinnell@macc.org.uk

LOCAL AUTHORITY OF SANCTUARY GOVERNANCE GROUP

Purpose	The aim of this space is to provide a strategic overview and governance of Manchester City Council becoming a Local Authority of Sanctuary; to drive improved outcomes for refugees and migrant communities in the city of Manchester; to ensure the voice of lived experience and those working with migrants is heard and is used to shape and plan activity. It also works to ensure the Council's communication strategy celebrates the diversity in the city, highlights and reinforces the message that its strength is in the diversity of the valuable contribution refugees and migrant communities brings to the city.
Convener	Manchester City Council
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Denise McDowell, GMIAU; Ben Gilchrist, Caritas; Patrick Masebo, MRSN;
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, Policy & Influence Manager at Macc - zara@macc.org.uk

OLDER PEOPLE

GREATER MANCHESTER OLDER PEOPLE'S EQUALITY PANEL (GMOPEP)

Purpose	The Older People's Equality Panel works with older people across Greater Manchester to amplify their diverse voices.
Convener	Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)
Current VCSE Rep(s)	John Mulveena (Macc)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2022
Contact	John Mulvenna, GMOPN - john.mulvenna@macc.org.uk

COMMUNITY SAFETY



MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Purpose	Multi agency partnership board which meet to discuss a range of thematic concerns related to community Safety including, crime, anti-social behaviour, fire, drugs, school truancy, hate crime etc.
Convener	Manchester City Council's Community Safety Partnership team
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Anushka Swannell (Macc)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2018
Contact	Anushka Swannell (Policy and Influence Development Worker, Macc) - anushka@macc.org.uk Samantha Stabler - s.stabler@manchester.gov.uk Joanne Davies - joanne.davies6@manchester.gov.uk

MANCHESTER SERIOUS VIOLENCE BOARD

Purpose	Manchester's Serious Violence Board ensures effective oversight of responses to serious violent crime and the implementation (ensuring prevention, early intervention and safeguarding are integrated to our responses) in the city of Manchester. The Board oversees the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty through a public health approach and drive to support partnership working to ensure visibility for overlapping areas such as safeguarding.
Convener	Community Safety Partnership Board
Current VCSE Rep(s)	
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2024
Contact	Millie Brown, Collaboration Team Manager, Macc - Millie@macc.org.uk Jenna Southern, Serious Violence Manager at Manchester City Council - jenna.southern@manchester.gov.uk



MANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Purpose	The Manchester Partnership Board is a Committee or Sub-Committee of the NHS GM Integrated Care Board (ICB), and brings together the senior leaders of the City Council, NHS (primary, secondary and community and mental health services) and the VCSE from across the city to exercise those functions delegated to it by NHS GM. Its role is to focus on shared priorities; those areas where, by working together, we can improve the health and well-being of the people of Manchester.
Convener	Chaired by Councilor Bev Craig
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Simone Spray, 42nd Street Charity Mike Wild (Macc)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, Policy & Influence Manager at Macc - zara@macc.org.uk

HDRC MANCHESTER STEERING GROUP

Purpose	The purpose of HDRCs is to boost research capacity and capability within local government. The aim is to embed a culture of evidence-informed decision making, with a particular focus on using research findings to understand how Council decisions around the determinants of health impact on health outcomes and health inequalities. The group brings together the MCC, UoM, NHS, VCSE and cross-sector colleagues to drive the delivery of the programme.
Convener	Manchester City Council
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Zara Hakobyan (Macc)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2023
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, Policy & Influence Manager at Macc - zara@macc.org.uk

HEALTH & WELLBEING ALLIANCE MEASURING IMPACT SUBGROUP

Purpose	This sub-group is a forum to develop and test tools to measure the impact of projects being delivered as part as the Health and Wellbeing Alliance workstreams and partnerships
Convener	The Health & Wellbeing Alliance
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Finn Grice (LGBT+ Foundation)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2024
Contact	Finn Grice, Policy and Research Manager at the LGBT+ Foundation - finn.grice@lgbt.foundation

HEALTH & WELLBEING ALLIANCE SOCIAL CARE SUBGROUP

Purpose	This subgroup meets to discuss policy and emerging data in social care with the aim of making improvements in service provision
Convener	The Health & Wellbeing Alliance
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Finn Grice (LGBT+ Foundation)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2024
Contact	Finn Grice, Policy and Research Manager at the LGBT+ Foundation - finn.grice@lgbt.foundation



FAMILY HUBS STEERING GROUP

Purpose	The Family Hubs programme is a central government funded money dedicated to extending and improving support for families with children across Manchester. The steering group is multi-agency, with representation from a number of statutory services including early years, education, early help, midwifery, infant feeding and a number of VCSE sector partners.
Convener	Manchester City Council's Children and Education Directorate
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Anushka Swannell (Macc) Adrian Ball (Mcr Settlement) Laura Edward (Manchester Mind) Shelley Roberts (Home Start)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	Since 2021
Contact	Anushka Swannell (Policy and Influence Development Worker, Macc) - anushka@macc.org.uk Chris Webb, Programme Manager - Christopher.webb@manchester.gov.uk



MANCHESTER CHILDREN'S BOARD

Purpose	The Manchester Children's Board is a strategic partnership in Manchester focused on improving the lives and outcomes of children and young people in the area. It involves collaboration between various stakeholders, including local authorities, health services, educational institutions, and community organisations.
Convener	Manchester City Council
Current VCSE Rep(s)	Debbie Ariyo (AFRUCA Safeguarding Children)
Time spent as VCSE Rep(s)	
Contact	Zara Hakobyan, the Policy and Influence Manager at Macc, zara@macc.org.uk

For additional information or if you have any questions or inquiries, please reach out to Zara Hakobyan, the Policy and Influence Team Manager at Macc, zara@macc.org.uk