



**Active Citizens in Our Own Health  
Community Reporters Project**

**Funded by Manchester CCGs**

## About the Community Reporters Programme

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Macc's Community Reporter Programme gives people a platform to have a voice, challenge perceptions about their communities and describe their own reality. The training programme includes a variety of storytelling approaches using video, audio, photography and writing.

The training uses accessible and affordable equipment that can then be borrowed from Macc. Community Reporter training participants are offered the opportunity to join the Manchester Community Reporters Network and can continue to report on what's important to them.

The training is accredited by the Institute of Community Reporters. Our approach is to see the value in the skills, knowledge and experience of the learners.

For further information about Manchester Community Reporters visit:

<https://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/whats-happening-manchester/manchester-community-reporters>

There are similar Community Reporter programmes in other areas of Greater Manchester, the UK and Europe. Content from Community Reporter programmes is uploaded to a website covering the whole network: <http://communityreporter.net> and to a Manchester specific site which is curated by Macc: <http://mymanchester.net>

## Aims of the 'Active Citizens In Our Own Health' project

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The aims of this Manchester Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) funded project are as follows:

- To explore how people can take more control over their own health by enabling people to share their experiences and tell their stories
- To showcase local examples of patients, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector providers and public health services working together to promote wellbeing
- To highlight the lessons from individuals' direct experience which can inform the future development of services
- To explore how barriers to access can be removed by looking at the key role the Manchester voluntary and community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) has played in devising solutions e.g. the role of BME voluntary and community sector organisations, user-led organisations etc.

The VCSE and especially the user-led movement has historically played an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of local citizens and their communities by changing the relationship between professionals and members of the public. By recognising that both parties have vital contributions to make and valuing the expertise of all involved we are better able to be actively involved in our own health and wellbeing rather than being the passive beneficiaries of care, designed and delivered by others.

## Project Activities

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The programme will consist of:

1. **Community Reporter training programme** - Community Reporter 'Silver' training course and follow up support provision for participants with film production:
  - Community Reporting is accredited by the Institute of Community Reporters and participants become part of wider network of Community Reporters. It is a three day programme for up to ten participants. Participants will:
    - Learn how to use the equipment e.g. flip cameras

- Produce a storyboard
  - Collect the content
  - Edit the film on free editing software
  - Upload the film to the Community Reporter website: <http://communityreporter.co.uk> and to the MyManchester website: [www.mymanchester.net](http://www.mymanchester.net)
  - Peer reviewing other participants films and identify common themes
2. **Community Reporter Films** - Over the course of the training programme each participant will make a short film which will examine what:
- supports people to look after their own health and well-being
  - supports people with long term physical and mental health conditions to work collaboratively with care givers and clinicians
3. **Final session** - Participants will work with GP/CCG representatives to draw together the themes emerging from produced films and agree the format for the presentation of the findings/recommendations. This could include an exhibition, a text report or the production of a DVD etc. Participants will be supported to deliver this.

### **What the project offers individuals/patients/carers/people who use services**

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This could offer the:

- Opportunity to tell your own story and have your say about the way health care should be delivered in Manchester
- Opportunity to influence decision makers and health care practitioners. This could contribute to changing the relationship between 'professionals' and 'patients'. This project is supported by the Manchester CCG's and the messages from the films will be presented to the people who make plans and decisions about current and future services
- Opportunity to build on your existing knowledge and experience and develop new skills
- Opportunity to participate in a free 3-day accredited Community Reporter training course and access ongoing support through the Community Reporter's Network
- Opportunity to express yourself creatively
- Opportunity to boost your confidence and self-esteem
- Opportunity to engage in fun, informal training and the opportunity to meet new people

### **What the project offers VCSE organisations**

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- Production of a short film that can be used to showcase your work and/or influence policy makers
- Opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of a participatory and co-productive approach to service delivery
- Free training for your members/service users/beneficiaries/staff
- Ongoing links to the Manchester Community Reporter Network and the Institute of Community Reporters
- Opportunity for your members and people who either access or deliver your services to have a voice and become ambassadors for your organisation by producing ongoing stories and content