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## **Manchester Volunteer Meet Up (MVMU)**

**5 February 2018, Macc, Manchester City Centre**

**Facilitated by: Jack Puller, Active Communities Manager, Macc**

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### **Notes and actions**

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#### **Rationale:**

Manchester Volunteer Meet Ups are facilitated by Volunteer Centre Manchester (which is managed by Macc), and provides a chance for people in the City of Manchester who are volunteering - or seeking to volunteer, to come together; learn about relevant volunteering opportunities, network, share experiences and get support.

Volunteer Centre Manchester provides information, support and training to Manchester residents who want to volunteer, and supports Manchester-based organisations who want to recruit volunteers, need help and advice to develop new roles, introduce/update policies and procedures or have a training need.

Macc is the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector support organisation for the city of Manchester.

Services and activities such as capacity building, the Voluntary Sector Assembly and Volunteer Centre Manchester are available through Macc's service website: Manchester Community Central, [www.manchestercommunitycentral.org](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org).

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***7 people attended the MVMU for February 2018.***

***Actions are highlighted with an asterisk (\*).***

# Welcome and Introductions

Jack invited those in attendance to introduce themselves, and talk about their volunteering experiences or what they were looking to engage with or access in terms of volunteering opportunities.

Those in attendance shared how they'd heard about the MVMU through word of mouth, the volunteer centre website, Facebook, Twitter and via the organisation they already volunteer for. There were some suggestions raised for improving participation in future MVMU's:

- venue and MVMU signage
- advertising through wider networks and other organisations that involve volunteers
- advertising through other social media and websites (Meetup, Eventbrite etc)

Generally, it was felt that a round of introductions is a good way to open MVMU's; to provide updates, form a loose agenda for the meet up, and as a way to 'break the ice' or welcome people that are joining a meet up for the first time.

***\*Jack to further investigate and action the ways of improving participation in future MVMU's that were raised.***

## MVMU Format

Jack shared his role of "facilitator" at this MVMU; how these sessions are relatively new, and that there is no intention for MVMU's to have a rigid or fixed format moving forward. Jack also explained that the MVMU does not need to come together at the same venue for each gathering, and invited suggestions for future venues in the City Centre of Manchester that could be explored.

It is hoped that the MVMU will function in a number of ways:

- as a means of accessing relevant information and support relating to volunteering, social action etc
- as a networking opportunity for people who volunteer, or are interested in volunteering, social action etc in the City of Manchester
- as a forum to develop and enable the "Voice of Volunteering" in Manchester
- to provide an informal, social setting to bring people together around a mutual interest
- *in other ways that are determined to be of worth or value by those who attend the MVMU's; one suggestion being to attend training*

It is also hoped that core group of MVMU members will be established.

Jack invited anyone who would be interested in facilitating a future MVMU to contact him directly; or if they'd like to raise a topic or discussion point for a meet up.

Jack paused to allow for questions and for points to be raised by those in attendance.

## **Volunteering Opportunities (Long/Short Term, One-off, Event etc)**

As it was identified as a popular discussion point, a wider conversation was held about accessing Volunteering Opportunities.

A number of people shared how they were interested in taking part in “one-off” or event volunteering opportunities, this alongside volunteering that they already undertake and/or as a way of “trying different types of volunteering”.

Numerous opportunities were shared and described by the group; based on word of mouth and participating previously:

### **Manchester International Festival**

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is the world’s first festival of original, new work and special events. The Festival is staged every two years in Manchester, UK – the next edition will take place 4 – 21 July 2019 at venues all over the city.

### **Manchester Literature Festival**

Manchester Literature Festival presents inspiring live literature & spoken word from across the globe. MLF features 70-80 events each October inc Commissions.

### **Manchester Jazz Festival**

Manchester Jazz Festival is an annual 9-day-long festival focused on showcasing contemporary jazz from the North West of England and beyond.

### **Manchester Day**

Manchester Day is an annual event that celebrates everything great about the city. It is a day for families, residents and visitors to get together and celebrate all things Mancunian that have made Manchester one of the world’s most iconic cities.

### **Fundraising Opportunities**

#### **MCRVIP**

The MCRVIP identifies and deploys volunteers to support sport, physical activity & events across Manchester.

It was felt by those in attendance, that it would be useful to know more (or be able to access information), about upcoming one-off and event volunteering opportunities.

## **Ad-hoc / "Oven Ready Volunteers"**

Following this, the idea of 'oven ready volunteers' was introduced; which is a loose association of people who are ready and receptive to volunteer at events, at short notice or on an ad-hoc basis.

One suggestion to support this was by establishing an MVMU circulation list, where relevant information, as well as notes and actions from MVMU's could be shared (electronically and by post).

***\*Jack to investigate the option of establishing an MVMU circulation list electronically and by post.***

Jack also outlined the option to identify and register an interest in volunteering opportunities through the volunteer centre website, and how it is also possible to engage with the volunteer centre via e-mail, telephone, face to face and via social media.

## **Greater Manchester Festival of Ageing**

As part of the discussion about volunteering opportunities, Jack talked about the Greater Manchester Festival of Ageing.

The GM Festival of Ageing is a festival of events taking place across Greater Manchester to celebrate the positive aspects of ageing in all ten borough, and takes place between **2 and 25 July 2018**.

At present, further information is available via Twitter: @FestivalAgeing.

*There will be opportunities to support the GM Festival of Ageing as Event Volunteers, and as Festival Champions.*

***\*Jack to identify further information about the GM Festival of Ageing, how to register as a volunteer, and circulate this to the MVMU Circulation List.***

## Volunteering Surgeries at Manchester Central Library

The volunteer centre runs a monthly Volunteering Surgery at Manchester Central Library.

A Volunteering Surgery is an informal drop-in session for anybody wanting to know more about, or get involved in volunteering or social action in Manchester. Members of the volunteer centre team are joined by people who engage in volunteering (surgeons), and dispense support and guidance to people that attend the surgery.

The sessions run between **11:00** and **13:00**, and take place on the Lower Ground Floor of the Library (City Library).

The next surgeries will be taking place on **Friday 16 February 2018** and **Friday 16 March 2018**.

*Flyers for the upcoming surgeries are enclosed with these notes.*

## Spirit of Manchester Awards 2018 - Filmmaker Training

Macc coordinates and delivers the Spirit of Manchester programme annually, which is a celebration of the work of thousands of voluntary organisations, community groups, charities and social enterprises in Manchester.

The programme includes a Festival of events across the city organised by local groups. The highlight of the week is the Spirit of Manchester Awards in which examples of great community spirit and the very best about the voluntary sector is recognised

As part of the awards evening, all nominees that are shortlisted in one of the award categories (Volunteer of the Year, Most Inspiring Campaign etc), have a short film made about them to tell their story. These films are made by the nominees themselves, and through a cohort of trained filmmaker volunteers.

The filmmaker training will be held in May and June, Jack invited contact from anyone that is interested in supporting the Spirit of Manchester Awards as a filmmaker, by attending the training.

***\*Jack to provide further information about the filmmaker training, including dates and times, at the next MVMU.***

## **Volunteers' Week 2018**

Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration of the fantastic contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK. It takes place from **1 - 7 June** every year.

The volunteer centre marks Volunteers' Week annually with events and activities in Manchester: issuing certificates, delivering training, marketing campaigns, volunteering fairs etc.

Similar activities are planned for 2018, and Jack shared how the volunteer centre is keen to "bring in" some perspective and representation from people who actively volunteer or give their time in Manchester, by bringing people into it's Volunteers' Week Working Group.

Working Group meetings are scheduled for Mid-February, March and April, Jack invited anybody that is interested in joining the working group to contact him directly.

## **AOB and Networking**

Jack shared his contact details ([jack@macc.org.uk](mailto:jack@macc.org.uk), 0161 830 4770), and encouraged everybody in attendance to contact him should they again be interested in:

- Facilitating an MVMU
- Taking part in the Spirit of Manchester Filmmaker Training
- Joining the Volunteers' Week 2018 Working Group
- Suggesting or offering a venue for a future MVMU
- Raising a topic or discussion point for a future MVMU
- Acting as a "surgeon" at a Volunteering Surgery

Jack invited any other business, or points of discussion to be raised.

Nothing was shared at this point, Jack thanked everybody for attending, and shared that the next MVMU will be taking place on:

**Monday 5 March 2018**

**Venue: Board Room, Macc, Swan Buildings 20 Swan Street, Manchester, M4 5JW**

**Arrival and Networking: 17:00**

**Start: 17:30**

**Finish: 19:00**

Jack closes the meet up, and encourages conversation and networking.

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**Details of future Manchester Volunteer Meet Ups can be found via the Volunteer Centre Manchester website: [www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk](http://www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk), Facebook: /VCMOfficial and Twitter: @VolunteeringMcr.**

**For further information, you can also call 0161 830 4770, or email [info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk) with the Subject: Manchester Volunteer Meet Up.**

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