



# Manchester Community Central Quarterly News

Issue  
Autumn 2013

## Spirit of Manchester Awards 2013

We held our first Spirit of Manchester Awards ceremony in September.

“Our Spirit of Manchester Awards event was a fantastic celebration of the role the 3,000 voluntary and community groups play in this city. From the efforts of individual volunteers to campaigns run by several working in partnership, what came out loud and clear was the sense of commitment to the communities of Manchester.” Mike Wild, Chief Executive Macc

Here are a few pictures taken on the Awards night

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Supporting our  
Voluntary and  
Community  
Sector

See more photos on  
our Flickr page:

<http://tinyurl.com/maccflickr>

# Updates from us

## Highlighting the spirit of Manchester's volunteers and community groups

The first Spirit of Manchester Awards ceremony was a fantastic night. The awards were to celebrate all the work of Manchester's voluntary and community sector and were presented at the NOMA building by the Lord Mayor of Manchester.



Winners were determined by the audience voting on short films of the projects made by Manchester Community Reporters. The raffle and silent auction on the night raised over £430 for the We Love MCR charity.

Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Naeem ul Hassan said: "It was an honour to present the Spirit Awards and recognise all the volunteers and community groups who help make Manchester a better place to live. The awards are a way for us all to show our appreciation for the time and hard work local residents have given to help other people. This type of community spirit is what truly makes Manchester a world-class city.

The evening also raised a lot of money for the We Love Manchester charity and I'd like to thank everyone who put their hand in their pocket. The money will help us continue to improve lives and the life chances of Manchester people."



See the winners and their films at: [www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/spirit-manchester-awards](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/spirit-manchester-awards)

Thank you to our five Judges (<http://tinyurl.com/awardjudges>) who determined the shortlisted candidates, to The Co-operative who provided the venue, buffet and drinks and to the generous supporters (<http://tinyurl.com/awardsupporters>) who donated prizes for our raffle and auction.



# Updates from us

## Chief Executive's update



In this newsletter you'll see we've been successful in re-bidding for the Council contract to support the local sector. Just like any

other voluntary sector organisation Macc has to bid for funds and generate income – and it always feels like a load of extra work!

I was keen to use the tender as a chance to reflect on how we work and make sure we practice what we preach. One example is that Macc has become an accredited Living Wage Employer.

The Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually, based on the actual cost of living in the UK – it's currently £7.45 (the Minimum Wage is £6.31).

Clearly, if we're campaigning against in-work poverty, we should avoid causing it for our own employees or contractors. There are practical advantages too: studies in London showed that employers who implement a Living Wage policy see benefits like better recruitment and retention.

In our sector, we want to be robust and ethical organisations - in fact we'd say you can't be one without the other. So for Macc signing up to the Living Wage Campaign was an obvious step. We'd encourage all voluntary and community sector groups to consider it too, visit: [www.livingwage.org.uk](http://www.livingwage.org.uk) for more details.

**Mike Wild, Chief Executive, Macc**

## Macc wins Council Infrastructure Contract



As you may be aware, earlier this year the City Council launched a competitive tendering process for the contract to provide support to the city's voluntary and community sector for the next three years.

**We are delighted to announce that Macc has been awarded this contract.**

The new contract combines all the elements of support which Macc and partners have developed since 2009: capacity building support for local voluntary and community groups, support for the engagement and influence of the local sector and the Volunteer Centre. These services are delivered under the banner of 'Manchester Community Central' which is the platform established by Macc in 2009.

All these services are accessible through our online portal:

[www.manchestercommunitycentral.org](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org)  
or on 0333 321 3021.

## Laura is now back on track

With a little help from Volunteer Centre Manchester Laura Garner performed her own song at the first Spirit of Manchester Awards ceremony!

Over 100 people attended the high profile event which The Lord Mayor of Manchester hosted on 26 September at the new NOMA Co-operative building.

Laura took a big step approaching Volunteer Centre Manchester and has had a package of support tailored to her to help her gain confidence, move on to a volunteering opportunity and eventually employment. She has had a hard background and ended up as the sole carer for her mother, who has since sadly passed away.



**“I’m really excited, I feel I have been given a chance and a great opportunity to achieve. Having Fran and Sefton believe in me has made a difference”.** Laura Garner

The package, titled Back on track, was put together by Fran at the Volunteer Centre and Sefton, a Macc employee, who also works in music production. It involved a five week course where Laura had the opportunity to familiarise herself with the recording studio, write a song about her life and then record and produce her song. The aim is to build Laura’s confidence, whilst rejuvenating her passion for music.

**“This was a very inspired and innovative programme by the Volunteer Centre. Special thanks to Ganzi and Classique Studios for all the support”.** Sefton Simpson, Macc

## Welcome to Jack - our new Volunteering Development Worker

Hi I’m Jack, lifelong mancunian residing/loitering in Wythenshawe, South Manchester. I love sport, video games and movies. I play drums in a number of horrific sounding bands with equally poor names! We also have another Volunteer Development Worker, Greg, who will be starting as this goes to print.



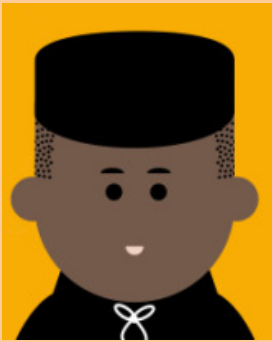
## Do you need volunteers?

Do you know of any Manchester voluntary and community organisations large and small who need help recruiting volunteers?

Help us spread the message about Volunteer Centre Manchester.

Visit: <http://bit.ly/GTOi4o>, call us to arrange an appointment on 0161 830 4770 or email: [info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk)

## DBS (CRB) Checking Service - Charges from 1 October 2013



The free volunteer checking service has now ended.

From 1 October 2013, the charges for DBS checks are as follows: Volunteer checks £10. Non-volunteer £15 (plus DBS certificate charges). ID check £10.

Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/dbsnews>

## Training Courses - Update

To view the latest volunteering related courses from Volunteer Centre Manchester please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/vcmcrtraining>

Training is for City of Manchester based voluntary and community organisations and volunteers only.

Training includes, Level 1 Award In Volunteering and Managing Volunteers.



## Take a look at our new website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Check out our new website at [www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk](http://www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk) where you can see all our new Volunteer Centre characters!

### Volunteer Centre Manchester

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/@VolunteeringMcr](http://www.twitter.com/@VolunteeringMcr)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/VCMOfficial](http://www.facebook.com/VCMOfficial)



# Support for groups news

## ‘Community right to bid’- the Locality Act and what it means to you

Parish councils or people from community or voluntary groups with a local connection can apply to their local authority to include land or buildings whether owned by statutory agencies or private individuals or companies on a community asset register. Examples have been public houses, post offices, community shops as well as assets owned by statutory authorities.

If the authority adds the building to the asset register and the asset is subsequently placed **for sale**, the authority has the legal right (with some exceptions) to place an embargo on the sale to allow a parish council, community or voluntary group to prepare a bid and compete to buy the asset. The authority can move straight for a moratorium of six months to allow the interested party to assemble their bid and finances.

The registration of the asset can include land or buildings owned by the Local Authority.

### What are ‘My community rights’ under the 2011 act

Community right to bid, Community right to challenge, Community right to build and Neighbourhood planning.

### Community right to bid

- The Community right to bid requires a Local Authority to compile a register of land or buildings that are a community assets

- Citizens can nominate land or buildings as community assets, these can include public or private land or buildings
- If any of these assets are offered **for sale** the Community right to bid is triggered and the community has six months in which to prepare a bid and compete to buy and run the asset

### What to do next

Since the act was introduced, nationally many community buildings and land that are local authority assets have been made available for community use. Most of these will be covered by the Community right to bid, some may also be covered by the Community right to challenge a separate right under the Locality Act, to deliver public services, which is not dealt with here.

If you have identified an asset, that you want add to the register or you wish to purchase you can talk to us about developing a pre-feasibility study with our partners Can Do Communities.

Pre-feasibility funding has been made available by national government to help in developing you bid, community groups and parish councils can apply for up to £10,000 of development funding.

For more information call us on 0333 321 3021, or visit the Can Do Communities website:

<http://candocommunities.co.uk>

# Support for groups news

## Trustee Seminar – what you know, what you should know and what you don't know about being a Trustee...

Are you a Trustee or are you thinking of becoming a Trustee?

To mark Trustees Week 2013 - we are inviting Trustees of voluntary community sector organisations within the City of Manchester to come along to our free seminar on:

**Date:** Tuesday 26 November 2013

**Time:** 9.30am-12pm

**Venue:** Methodist Central Hall, Manchester

Delivered by Moira Protani, Partner and Head of the Charities Department at Wilsons Solicitors LLP.

Moira is an expert in charity law. She advises on the establishment of charities, trustee powers and duties, schemes, taxation, grant-making, fundraising, mergers, the disposal of land and buildings, dealing with the Charity Commission, constitutional and good governance issues.

In this seminar she will cover:

- Charities - The State of the Nation
- Understanding the Voluntary Sector - the role of trustees and different constitutional structures
- The Wellbeloved Foundation - a case study

This seminar will be interactive and is a must for any trustees regardless of whether you are new to being a Trustee or a Trustee looking to update your knowledge.

### Booking is essential

For further information and to book a place, visit: [www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/training](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/training)

## Our Website



## Our new look website has launched

[www.manchestercommunitycentral.org](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org)

After listening to feedback we have simplified and made our website more user friendly.

We have also added exciting new features, which include:

- Give locally - fundraising pages for Manchester groups to encourage people to give more to local causes, both in time and donations
- Find a service provider - a database of consultants providing support
- A commissioning intentions database, plus more new features

We'd really like to know what you think, email us your comments to:

[info@mcrcommunitycentral.org](mailto:info@mcrcommunitycentral.org)

## Training Needs Analysis 2013 - The results are in...

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the 2013 training needs analysis.

We will work to ensure that the training programmes co-ordinated by Macc reflect these priorities.

The training questionnaire was designed to assess the training needs of the voluntary sector in Manchester and was distributed across the sector through the ebulletin, newsletter, website and social media platforms.

If you would like to discuss your organisation's training needs then please do get in touch via email:

[training@mcrcommunitycentral.org](mailto:training@mcrcommunitycentral.org) or

A large number of responses were received this year which highlighted a small change in priority learning areas since the last training analysis.



Overall the results have given us a good indication to the training needs for the sector over the next 3-12 months which in summary are:

- **Managing change**
- **Safeguarding adults**
- **Marketing**
- **Monitoring and evaluation**
- **Risk assessment**
- **Managing Volunteers**
- **Social return on investment**
- **Researching needs**
- **Reaching Communities - Lottery workshop**

0333 321 3021 and we will be happy to talk through how we can support you and your organisation.

Further information on the results of the training needs analysis can be found on our website:

[www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/training](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/training)



# Funding and Commissioning



## Apply now for Community First funding

Community First funding is available in several wards across Manchester. You can apply for £250-£2,500 and decisions are made by a local panel and each panel has set local priorities for their area.

You can find out more about these priorities by contacting us on 0333 321 3021 or by checking our website:

[www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/community-first](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/community-first)

### How to apply

Identify a project that meets the priorities.

Remember – you must have a match for each £1 you apply for. This could be other funding (not CASH grant) or donations of cash or goods. Volunteers are valuable. You can use their time as match too. One hour of volunteer time is worth £11.09 (to apply for £250 you will need to show volunteer involvement of at least 23 hours).

Complete the simple application form explaining what you will do, why it is needed and what difference it will make. Allow at least six weeks between the decision date and starting your project.

### Upcoming deadlines

#### Baguley and Newall Green

31 January 2014 and 10 March 2014

#### Brooklands

31 January 2014 and 10 March 2014

#### Northenden

31 January 2014 and 10 March 2014

#### Sharston

31 January 2014 and 10 March 2014

#### Crumpsall

3 February 2014 and 31 March 2014

#### Charlestown

3 February 2014 and 31 March 2014

#### Moston

3 February 2014 and 31 March 2014

#### Ancoats and Clayton

17 January 2014 and 7 February 2014

#### Bradford

17 January 2014 and 7 February 2014

#### Miles Platting and Newton Heath

17 January 2014 and 7 February 2014

#### Gorton North

Rolling deadline

#### Gorton South

Rolling deadline

## Commissioning and Integrated Care

Monitor is the sector regulator for health services in England. One of its roles is to ensure that the Health and Social Care Act 2012 is implemented and a key focus of the Act is on integrated care.

The Act imposes duties on Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to ensure that health services are internally integrated (within NHS provided services) and externally integrated (with health and social services provided by others). Nigel Rose, Strategic Lead (Commissioning) debates how the NHS could commission for integrated services in his new blog.

To read Nigel's blog, visit:

[www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/commissioning-and-integrated-care](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/commissioning-and-integrated-care)

## Manchester Community Choir

Manchester Community Choir has over 100 members and has been performing since 1999.

The choir sings for pleasure, well-being and friendship; their repertoire includes songs from all parts of the world, both modern and traditional.

Would you like the Choir to sing at one of your events?



To make a booking email: [bookings@manchestercommunitychoir.org.uk](mailto:bookings@manchestercommunitychoir.org.uk)

The Choir appears regularly at events in Manchester and further afield, singing songs about equality, peace and respect. So as to cover their expenses, they normally charge a fee. However the Choir also aim to support some good causes which are unable to afford any payment.

For more information, visit: <http://manchestercommunitychoir.org.uk>

## Newfound Theatre Company

Newfound Theatre Company specialises in bespoke health and social issue plays that convey information, present challenging issues, and stimulate empathy, discussion and debate.



All of the writers and actors have personal and/or professional experience of health care provision.

The theatre company think that dramatisation is a more immediate, effective and entertaining way of getting people to look at subjects from a new and objective perspective and, because their plays combine hard hitting scenes with moments of humour, without feeling 'got at'.

Their plays are devised and written after extensive consultation and research and are accompanied by actor-led workshop activities

before, after or during the performance, to engage and involve audience members. For more information, visit: [www.newfoundtheatre.co.uk](http://www.newfoundtheatre.co.uk) or call 0845 031 8236, or email: [newfoundtheatre@gmail.com](mailto:newfoundtheatre@gmail.com)

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

## Whitemoss Youth Club and Community Centre brand new coffee bar and viewing lounge

On 28 September 2013 Graham Stringer MP and Robin Lawler from Northwards Housing opened the coffee bar and viewing lounge at Whitemoss Youth Club and Community Centre.

The opening day included a bouncy castle provided by Commando Joe, arts and crafts provided by Grumpy and face painting.

The extensions for the new coffee bar and lounge were built by two local builders, Steve and Chris, who were also club members in the 1970's.



This was all made possible with the help and funding from Manchester City Council and Northwards Housing. The Big Lottery Fund and Groundwork gave a grant of £2,000 towards the purchase of indoor tennis posts and nets to run a tennis competition on the opening day which included trophies for the winners and to also support the official opening.

The club also carried out fundraising and received in kind donations from Crudens Small Works, Rowlinsons Construction, Byrne surfacing, local artist Phil Tommins and many volunteers to make the new coffee bar and viewing lounge a reality.

## Manchester Digital Laboratory



Manchester Digital Laboratory (MadLab) is a space for creatives and digerati to play, plan and create together.

MadLab host regular meetups discussing a wide range of digital tools, programming languages, and arts practices. They've got some great courses lined up for the rest of 2013, including an initiation in projection mapping using VVVV, a guide to successful bid writing, an introduction to physical computing using Arduino, and an advanced WordPress tutorial, hosted by its cofounder.

To learn more about the space, and how you can get involved with these kinds of activities, visit:

<http://omniversity.madlab.org.uk> or email: [office@madlab.org.uk](mailto:office@madlab.org.uk)

## Funding support

### The Boaz Trust

The Boaz Trust is a Christian charity serving destitute asylum seekers and refugees in Greater Manchester. They provide accommodation, practical and pastoral support and a programme of social and educational activities for clients. Boaz also campaigns for an end to the destitution of asylum seekers and refugees.

Alongside accommodation and the basic provision of support, Boaz had a vision to provide more intensive support for male clients that would enable them to rebuild their lives and move on from Boaz. The project plan included a full time Male Case Worker, legal advice and representation, and regular activities to help asylum seeking men prepare for the future.

Boaz contacted us in Summer 2012 for support with funding a new support programme for asylum seeking men. We met with the Boaz team and supported them in developing a Stage 1 application to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities programme, a funder they had not previously contacted. With support from us Boaz successfully passed Stage 1 and was invited to submit a Stage 2 application.

We supported Boaz in developing a Stage 2 application and also brought in an expert funding consultant to aid the process. This intensive support involved face to face sessions as

well as reviewing draft sections via email. The support helped Boaz present their project strongly, clearly and in their own words. Time was spent ensuring that there was a clear thread running throughout the application showing the connection between need, evidence, services and outcomes and clearly reflecting costs in a robust and realistic budget.

Emily Roberts, Fundraising and Communications Manager, said:

“It was a great help to have someone external to Boaz, critique our application and ask difficult questions about the project. This helped us strengthen the application and produce a more detailed project plan. The funding consultant was a good motivator and kept us on schedule to submit the application.”

The lottery grant of £248,602 over three years is the largest grant the Boaz Trust has been awarded to date. Through the project we anticipate seeing over 100 asylum seeking men significantly improve their physical and mental wellbeing, and re-connect with society. We are now looking forward to the hard work ahead, and are grateful to Manchester Community Central for their help in making this project possible.”

The Asylum Seeking Men's Support Programme began in October 2013. For more details on the Boaz Trust visit:

[www.boaztrust.org.uk](http://www.boaztrust.org.uk)

**boaztrust**  
serving destitute asylum seekers

# Manchester's groups

## Basic support requests

As the Capacity Building team at Macc, we often highlight some of the recent [In-depth support](#) work we have carried out with groups. In-depth support with a group usually requires email and phone support and often several face-to-face support and progress review meetings with an Organisational Development Worker (previously known as 'Business Improvement Co-ordinators'). In-depth support can take place over several weeks, or even months, particularly when working towards longer-term goals or complex support needs.

In this edition of the newsletter, we would like to remind groups that the Capacity Building team is also here to help with [basic support requests; for those instances where groups simply need a bit of information, an answer to a query, some information on training or to know where to look to find funding](#). Basic support can also involve directing groups to useful website resources or, if needed, a face-to-face meeting with one of the Organisational Development Workers or our Training Co-ordinator.

Although we will give priority to enquires from groups who have not yet accessed any support, groups who have already used the service, whether at an in-depth or basic support level, are also welcome to contact the team again with new support requests.

Here is a summary of some of the basic support we have provided to groups recently:

## Recruitment process

- Providing information and clarification on the Equality Act 2010 with regard to occupational requirements
- Support to take a planned approach to recruitment, clear job descriptions, realistic hours of work/number of staff needed
- Simple tools provided to help with planning

## Human Resources

- Confirming the type and focus of support needed and signposting to a choice of appropriate (charged-for) consultancy support

## Funding

- Support to generate Funding Portal search results and steer towards appropriate forms of funding for the nature of the funding request

## New Groups

- Providing simple, starter information for new groups regarding structure, governing document, committee/trustee roles and responsibilities. Directing new groups to helpful factsheets and resources on our website

## Co-ordinated support

- Linking groups to other Macc services and resources, such as the Volunteer Centre, TLI Affinity Scheme, etc.

Groups can access basic support through the usual means of an email to: [info@mcrcommunitycentral.org](mailto:info@mcrcommunitycentral.org) or telephone enquiry to 0333 321 3021.

## Grants programme for Manchester's voluntary and community sector

The fund of £550,000 from the three Manchester Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) will be **available in early January 2014**, to Manchester's voluntary and community sector (VCS). **The main aim of the programme of work will be to reduce social isolation and loneliness for people over 50 years old in Manchester.**

The programme will also aim to build greater understanding of how the Manchester CCGs can work with VCS organisations to improve health and well-being outcomes for Manchester residents over the age of 50 years.

A programme Board has been appointed and the three Manchester CCGs have commissioned Macc to manage and administer the programme, along with the Charity Service. There will also be decision-making grant panels with experts from the three Manchester CCGs, Manchester City Council, including Valuing Older People, the Manchester Older People's Reference Group and Macc.



Applications will be for projects and/or equipment which can improve the health and wellbeing of older people in Manchester, by reducing social isolation and loneliness. There will be two levels of grants with separate application processes:

**Small grants of £500-£10,000 and Main grants of £10,000-£50,000**

Grants can be for capital and/or revenue. Main grants must be predominantly revenue. All grants must be spent within 18 months from the starting date.

[mary@macc.org.uk](mailto:mary@macc.org.uk).

Anna Tate will be joining Macc in November and will be working on this grants programme and the Community First funding programme.

## Manchester Mental Health Recovery Network

The Manchester Mental Health Recovery Network met for the second time in October 2013. The themes were 'Digital Stories' and 'Peer Support'. The key message is that there is a need for significant investment and reinvestment of resources to connect up and increase the range, quality and accessibility of recovery services in Manchester.

To get a copy of the event report, to find out more, or to get involved in the work of the network, contact John Butler at Macc on 0161 834 9823 or email:

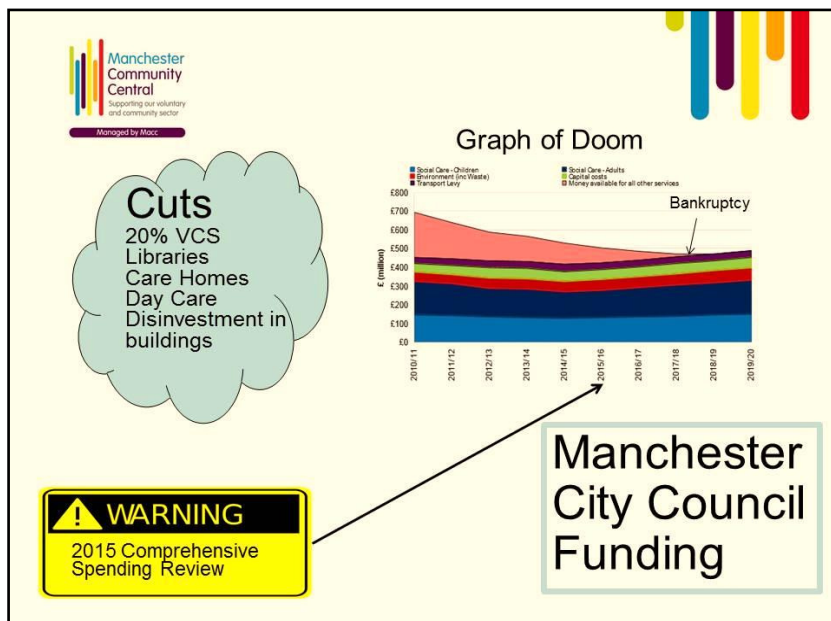
[john@macc.org.uk](mailto:john@macc.org.uk)

## Hot topics

Hot topics are a few of the most important things that we think that you need to know about what's happening in Manchester.

You can see other hot topics at: [www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/policy-and-influence/hot-topics](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/policy-and-influence/hot-topics).

The hot topic below is about local government funding in Manchester.



Everyone knows that Manchester City Council (MCC) is struggling with both cuts and increased demand but just how bad is it?

The graph of doom is a graphic illustration. It shows the point where Manchester City Council's statutory responsibilities outstrip its income, the 'broke' point. For Manchester the estimated date is somewhere around 2018, sooner than many other councils. This could of course move even nearer if there are further cuts in central government grant.

In the more immediate future there is the Comprehensive Spending Review a biannual review of all spending by government. The current expectation is that Manchester will be disproportionately hit as the government continues to move funding away from the North to the South-East.

Unsurprisingly the level of anxiety within local government is huge and all kinds of initiatives are under way to try and increase efficiency and decrease costs.

Funding for the voluntary sector has also been severely hit though it would be fair to say that not as badly as in many other city councils. MCC's policy has been to try and protect the voluntary and community sector.

# Get in touch



Managed by Macc

Telephone information service:

**0333 321 3021**

Email:

**info@mcrcommunitycentral.org**

Web:

**www.manchestercommunitycentral.org**

Twitter: **@McrCommCentral**

Telephone:

**0161 830 4770**

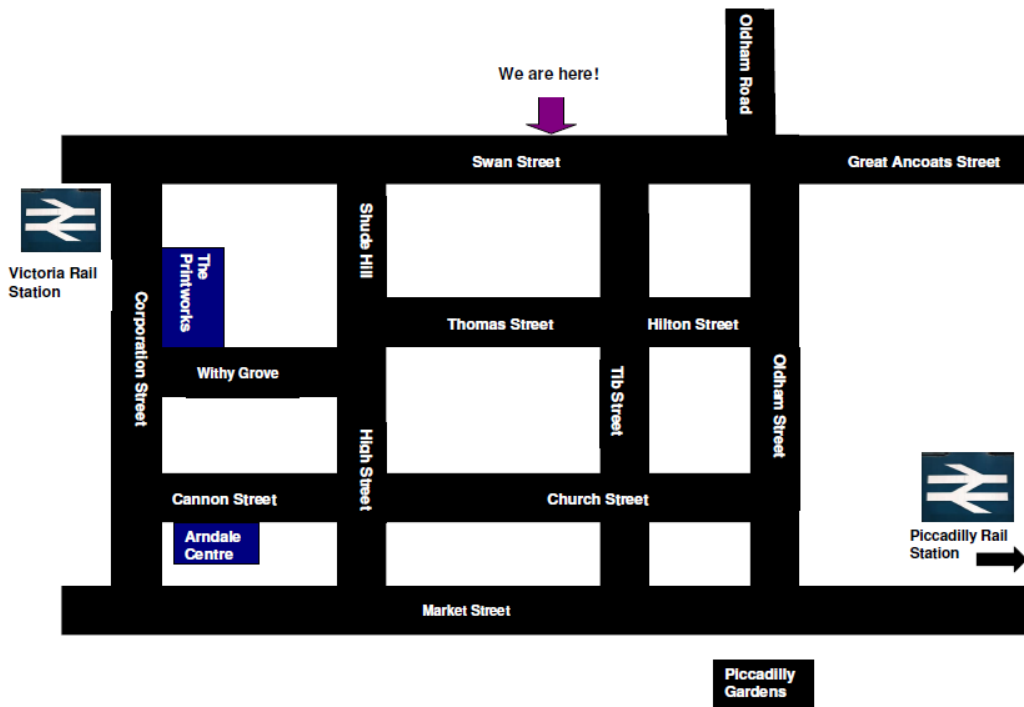
Email:

**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](mailto:info@mcrcommunitycentral.org)

Do you want your own copy of this newsletter?

If you're reading this in a library or at another organisation and you would like to receive your own copy of the newsletter then email us at: [info@mcrcommunitycentral.org](mailto:info@mcrcommunitycentral.org) and let us know if you would like to receive a copy by email or by post