



Spirit of Manchester 2023

Brochure





Macc is raising money for Manchester's voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to help support those that struggle the most during the cost of living crisis.

Please help us raise as much money as we can to help people in Manchester who need vital support in the cost of living crisis. We are asking you to take action to help those in need. Those on the lowest incomes and so many other people affected by social inequalities remain vulnerable and depend on the VCSE sector's support.

To find out how donations to the Spirit of Manchester Fund has helped the city over the last year, take a look at our Spirit Stories via the link below or by scanning the QR code!



bit.ly/2023CostOfLivingGrants





To donate by text message:

To make a one-off donation of £5 text SPIRITOFMCR 5 to 70450 or scan the QR code.

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about Donr's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text SPIRITOFMCRNOINFO 5 to 70450. Alternatively, you can text any whole-pound amount between £1 and £20, e.g. text SPIRITOFMCR 20 to donate £20.



Or to donate online:

Follow this link: <https://localgiving.org/charity/macc/project/spiritofmcr>

Macc's Spirit of Manchester Fund uses the donr text giving and Localgiving online fundraising platforms.



For further information or to discuss other ways you can support the Spirit of Manchester Fund as a donor, fundraiser or supporter, please contact Oliver Cranfield on 0161 834 9823 or email: oliver@macc.org.uk.



A few words from Mike Wild, Chief Executive Macc

On behalf of everyone at Macc, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the Spirit of Manchester Awards. This is always the highlight of our year, though I find it hard to believe it is now over ten years since we first held these awards and it seems to come round quicker each time. If this is your first time joining us at the Awards or if you've not come across Macc before, it is our role, and our honour, to support, encourage and celebrate the good, useful and amazing work of almost four thousand local voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and faith groups in the city of Manchester – and, quite literally, thousands of people (paid and voluntary) who work in them.



The Spirit of Manchester Awards are a celebration of all this combined effort but we must always recognise that – in a relatively wealthy country like the UK – the VCSE sector is having to work even harder to meet needs. After years of damaging impacts on our sector from cuts to public services, a global pandemic and a rapidly escalating cost of living crisis, we are more concerned than ever about the sustainability of the work done by all these organisations – and the toll it takes on the people who make all of this happen. The VCSE sector is a massive ecosystem of human support organisations of which, it seems, more and more is expected. These pressures arise not because there aren't enough resources, support and opportunities for everyone but because they are not equally accessible to everyone for reasons of personal circumstances, deep rooted structural injustices (some of which go back centuries) and, it must be said, political choices. So we celebrate what our sector does, what we really want is not to be needed. We want to solve these problems, not just address their effects. That is why we run the Spirit of Manchester programme: to tell that story, to show the things that could and should be better and the people and organisations who are doing something about it.

With love from all of us x

Mike Wild,
Chief Executive, Macc



Lord Mayor

COUNCILLOR YASMINE DAR

Councillor Yasmine Dar was born in South Yorkshire but was raised in Manchester. She is a proud Mancunian and has lived in Manchester for over fifty years, alongside her five brothers and one sister. As a child, Yasmine attended Manley Park Primary School and Whalley Range High School. She then attended Abraham Moss College, where she studied Art and Design, Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy. After working for several years, Yasmine took the decision to go back to education and completed a Diploma and Certificate in Welfare Studies. She began working for a Welfare Rights organisation supporting and advising individuals regarding their rights and entitlements. Yasmine soon realised making a difference to the lives of others by providing the right support and advice was her vocation.



Yasmine has had her fair share of trials and tribulations but has not let any of those struggles or difficulties keep her down. Empowered by her life experiences, while being a mother to two daughters, Yasmine completed a BA Hons in Social Work from Salford University. In 2009, Yasmine and her brother Majid set up a charity for young people called Community on Solid Ground. It is now an award-winning service, and more than 400 young people access its activities on a weekly basis.

Yasmine's working life has included helping some of the most vulnerable and stigmatised in our communities around mental ill health, domestic abuse, and the criminal justice system. Yasmine has valued the support of her loving parents, especially her late father M. Akram Dar, who encouraged her to become involved in local politics. Yasmine knew she could make a difference and is committed to standing up for peace, justice and equality for all. She was elected to Manchester City Council in 2014 as Councillor for Moston ward. Yasmine is a proud socialist and community activist. Soon after becoming a councillor, she was elected onto the Labour Party's National Executive Committee – its highest governing body. This is a great achievement for a working class, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic woman. Life taught Yasmine that she could empower herself to do better, and this is why her year as Lord Mayor will have the theme of self-empowerment. Yasmine says: "I am truly humbled and honoured to be the Lord Mayor of the City of Manchester. I will represent the great people of this city, and inspire and empower others on this journey." Yasmine will be supported by her daughter Amina as Lady Mayoress, and her brother Majid Dar as Consort during her year.



Judges

The shortlist was determined by independent judges (below). Films of the shortlist will be shown at the awards evening for the audience to vote on and determine the winner.

Thank you to our Spirit of Manchester Judges who kindly volunteered to read through all the nominations and select the shortlist

Jeremy (Jez) Myers – Chair of the panel

Nickala Torkington

Ben Watkins

Sarah Perkins

Elaine Unegbu

Robert Nieri



Jeremy Myers, Chair



Jeremy 'Jez' Myers is, by his own admission, not a writer. A recipient of Manchester City Council's 'Pride of Manchester' Award and the Chairperson for the Spirit of Manchester Awards, the passionate Mancunian has often found himself championing the people of his beloved city and its surrounding areas. Whether writing in local papers or shouting about things online, Jez has a knack for rallying support around his community and doing what he can for others.

After meeting partner Maria Romanenko, a Ukrainian journalist, in 2020, Jez was set to leave Manchester for Kyiv. However, after fleeing Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine, Jez has thrown his full support behind the people of Ukraine through a variety of volunteering projects..

The story of the escape has been featured, in part, in over one hundred major media outlets around the world and has gathered tens of millions of views. Jez has been Chairperson of the Awards for the last decade, an honour which he doesn't take lightly. Jez considers it to be an absolute privilege to sit with the other judges and read over the many nominations, often from the absolute unsung heroes of the community, which frequently leave him awe struck. Despite his protestations, Jez continues to write and should have a book published in 2024

Nickala Torkington



Nickala Torkington, is Founder and Managing Director of Flourish Together CIC a social innovation company and network which reinvests surpluses in supporting diverse women as a force for social change. She has spent over 23 years directly supporting over 3000 social innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders to create and sustain change they see needed in communities across the UK – predominantly in the North West, and is also a social value specialist.

Listed on WISE100 in 2020, 2022 and 2023 as one of the top 100 women in social enterprise nationally, was awarded Woman of the Year in Social Enterprise in 2019 as part of the Inspiring Women Awards and won a Northern Power Women Award as Levelling Up Leader in 2023.



Ben Watkins



Ben is aged 13 and in Year 8. His favourite subject is Drama. He loves getting to participate in extra-curricular activities including Choir, Debate Mate and being involved in Drama Productions. His absolute favourite part about school is spending time with his friends! Ben is passionate about his community, disability awareness, giving the voiceless a voice and seeing change for the most vulnerable. He loves being part of his church family, supporting Stockport County football team and hanging out with his friends. He enjoys being a part of Media Cubs which is a non-profit organisation encouraging young people to develop their confidence and have their voice heard in the media.

He also loves theatre and acting and loves being part of his amazing drama group at Droylsden Little Theatre. One of his proudest achievements to date has been appearing on the BBC Breakfast red sofa but is hoping for many more media appearances in the years to come. He is honoured to be a part of this year's judging panel and has loved hearing about all the amazing people and groups supporting their communities and coming up with innovative ideas to support those in need. Each and every one is an inspiration!

Sarah Perkins



I am a qualified accountant and have worked in the Health Service for 30 years, 26 of these in the North East. I joined Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust in January 2019 as Director of Operations for Manchester Royal Infirmary, following which I worked at Group level on Elective Recovery before joining Wythenshawe, Trafford, Withington and Altrincham (WTWA) as Deputy CEO, followed by Interim CEO in June 2022. I am married to Brian and enjoy travelling and sport, including being a keen Newcastle United supporter. What do the Spirit of Manchester Awards mean to you? Recognising the unsung heroes of the voluntary sector.



Elaine Unegbu



Elaine Unegbu has been a committed champion of Age-Friendly Work for many years and currently sits on the Age-Friendly Manchester Board. She is Chair of the Greater Manchester Older People's Network Steering Group. Elaine also sits on the advisory boards of the Creative Ageing Development Agency and Ageing in Place in Cities research group. She has had a long and varied career in nursing, nurse management and nursing education in the Netherlands, England and Nigeria. She has also been Chair of Central

Manchester Community Health Council, Non-executive Director of the Manchester Health Authority, a trustee for Age Concern and a Lay inspector with the Care Quality Commission.

Robert Nieri



I was born and bred in south Manchester before moving away to university and then around the country for work and only returned to the North West in 2018. When I did I felt I was finally back home. I am a charity lawyer with Shoosmiths, a national firm, working out of its Manchester office. I advise registered charities on legal, governance and regulatory issues, supporting them in their work and at all stages of their journey: establishing new charities, incorporating existing organisations and advising on collaboration or merger issues. I have a particular interest in how charities address ESG issues and how they can collaborate with the business sector for mutual benefit.

Growing up in Manchester I had little sense of the city's importance to the world and the achievements of which we can all be proud – aside from all the science breakthroughs, its history of protesting and campaigning, the birth of organisations like the RSPB and providing a home to the Co-operative movement. While the city centre has been transformed in my years away there is still so much to be done around the rest of the city to ensure everyone has can grow up, work and live well in their own communities. The voluntary and community sector leads the way and is the beating heart as well as the spirit of Manchester. I know the people being honoured by Spirit of Manchester are not motivated by receiving awards, but recognition is the least we owe those who selflessly serve others to make our city the best it can be.





From October 2022, the volunteer centre has supported more than 2000 people that live, work, study in or visit Manchester to access volunteering and/or opportunities to be an active citizen to have a real influence over the places and communities in which they live.

Volunteering in Manchester is a cause for celebration and appreciation. It's a testament to the incredible spirit of generosity and community that runs through the fabric of OUR city, and the thousands upon thousands who are so giving of their time, energy, skills, passion and enthusiasm that brings this to life day after day.

Following the preceding years, an astounding amount of turbulence, and whether it's helping a neighbour with tasks like shopping, being a trustee and coaching a sports team, or acting with others to help tackle issues from climate change and racism to food and fuel poverty, what prevails is that whatever label, maxim or lines you draw around it, all forms of voluntary action are valid, relevant and valued - and we at the volunteer centre and Macc stand by this.

"A volunteer might not consider themselves to be a volunteer. Perhaps they think of themselves as 'helping out', 'being neighbourly', 'taking part in my community or faith group', 'supporting a cause', or undertaking 'social action' - or they use another term altogether", Vision for Volunteering, 2022.

For Volunteers' Week 2023, the volunteer centre (in conjunction with the Lord Mayor of Manchester), once again supported groups and organisations to issue over 1000 certificates and messages of thanks to the volunteers that they involve in their work.

At Macc, we were proud and excited to secure the renewal of our Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation that will continue to drive our work on strategic development and good practice in volunteering whilst upholding a quality and responsive brokerage service. Add to this a deepening connection to the national Vision for Volunteering (that sets an aspirational and sustainable prospect of volunteering over the next decade), and our designs on convening a conversation around a volunteering strategy for Manchester, after we celebrate with you this evening, our future work starts in earnest.

Although the figures and stories we capture do a great deal to put across the diversity and scope of the good and useful stuff that takes place, it really is just a snippet. Suffice to say, we again find ourselves at a loss for words in the midst of such a force for good.

To all of you joining us in person or tuning in tonight though, please know that we are grateful, proud, humbled and comforted all over again.

Thank You



Volunteer of the Year

Nominations must show:

- How they go above and beyond their role
- How they inspire and motivate others to volunteer
- The impact they have made

Kiva Frishman



Kiva was 9 years old and new to the area when he joined 'the Addy'. He said the Addy was his safe space and helped him gain confidence and feel part of the community. Kiva applied to our young volunteering programme aged 12, since then Kiva has organised football tournaments between adventure playgrounds, raised funding, supported with planning and delivering sessions, evaluations and peer mentors newly registered young people, ensuring they feel welcomed and settled. Kiva is very creative, organised and passionate about his role.

Kiva comes in confident and can speak easily to other people about his volunteering experiences and the skills and knowledge he has accumulated, he makes the most of every opportunity put his way. Kiva met the Lord Mayor of Manchester recently when she visited the Addy, he shared his thoughts on the impact and importance of volunteering. Kiva spoke about his past and what the Addy has meant to him. Kiva was invited to the Lord Mayors Suite for afternoon tea as recognition for his volunteering contributions. Kiva's kind personality shines, he shows compassion for others, he is ambitious, focused and an excellent role model to other young people, we are very proud of him.

Lil Luckham

Lil is the hardest working volunteer I know, very much like a stick of Blackpool rock if you sliced Lil through the middle it would say volunteer. Lil is a pillar of the community, the neighbour that calls to check you're ok, does your errands if you're not. She is the one everyone turns to. In 2014 the Friends of Fallowfield decided to save the library from council closure by forming a charity and Lil was one of the founder members. Lil volunteered at the Place 7 Days a week for 5 years, when Lil became a part time member of staff. Although she had to step down as a trustee Lil worked 20 hours and volunteered another 20 hours on top. Making sure everyone was welcomed, running activities all as a volunteer. My estimate is over 9 years Lil has given over 13,000 volunteer hours and is has been pivotal in making us a success. We are super proud of all our volunteers but Lil is next level. The impact Lil has made is just beyond, lonely people, have friends, people volunteer with us because Lil encouraged, cajoled, bribed and mithered and inspired and they love her for it.



Volunteer of the Year

Pat Walsh



Pat Walsh is a former barrister and volunteers with Irish Community Care Manchester as an Advisor. Pat gives one day of his week to us advising on a range of issues such as housing, pensions, and benefits. As an expert in his field he is committed to getting the best possible outcomes for our service users regularly going the extra mile ensuring that they feel supported at every stage of the process through booking in extra follow up appointments and doing home visits if required. Pat has inspired other to volunteer with us through his achievements; his son is a

popular Lunch Group Volunteer and service users and volunteers alike respect the work he does for us. Whether quantitatively or qualitatively the impact of Pat's work can not be understated. He has literally saved people from destitution and fought for the benefits they are entitled to ensuring they can live comfortably. His tenacity, knowledge base, and gentle manner means service users have a huge amount of confidence that he will work to get them the best possible result and this is reflected in the huge amounts of positive feedback we receive about h



Young Volunteer of the Year - Winner

Nominations must show:

- How they go above and beyond their role
- How they inspire and motivate others to volunteer
- The impact they have made
- How they are improving the life opportunities of children and young people across the city of Manchester

The overall winner of this category was chosen by our panel of judges as part of Volunteers Week.

Emmie Narayn Nicholas



Emmie has set up and successfully run her own charity, Emmie's Kitchen (EK) for 5 years. When she was 8 years old, she was diagnosed with leukaemia. She spent 2 years in Manchester Children's Hospital undergoing treatment. Although Emmie was very poorly, she noticed that parents in hospital struggled to feed themselves. She came up with the idea to feed and provide food for parents staying in hospital with their child. People have been drawn to Emmie and EK, over 60 people have volunteered for EK, which is run by volunteers.

The impact of Emmie's work has been huge. Over 25,000 people have received a meal and the charity has formed a supportive community forum for parents staying in hospital which has regional recognition for quality and excellent services. Emmie has raised over 200k to feed and support parents and children at the hospital. Emmie is determined to support positive life changes for seriously ill and disadvantaged children and young people. She sits on the EK board and advises on the direction of the work. In the last 5 years Emmie has only missed 1 Kitchen and takeaway delivery, she is always there doing her share of the work.



Trustee/Committee Member of the Year

Nominations must show:

- What positive difference the trustee/committee member has made in the organization
- What qualities, knowledge and skills they bring to the Board or Committee
- How they support other trustees/committee members and develop good governance
- How they are a champion for the organisation

Mohamed Egeh



Mohamed has served on our committee since formation (2007): Trustee, Director, Secretary, Deputy Chairperson. Before there was no "all Somali" Manchester community organisation;. with other forward-thinkers from smaller groupings transcended barriers between different Somali regions, tribes and clans which precipitated the Civil War of 1990 displacing Somalis across the world. - comes from Somaliland in the North; arrived here with experience of government; - set up support for all Somalis with disabilities, quickly seeing the need to unite to use their strengths to meet common need; - lives with intense pain and severe

mobility problems, but he gives tireless practical help to fellow trustees, staff users; - interprets on complex issues; advocates for people in court, tribunals and with solicitors; - a strong grasp of disabled people's rights as well as accompanying anyone in need of new equipment, like wheelchairs, especially when their English is not strong; - originated and frequently contributed to our dual-language community newspaper; - now the only original Board member serving. SASCA is and always will be led by and for Somalis, now with wider expertise; - an enthusiastic advocate for modernising while asserting our unique identity. We are lucky to have him!



Trustee/Committee Member of the Year

Mathew Johnson



Mathew came on board as a trustee and brought a wealth of experience in transformation and strategic planning. Although Lifeshare is the oldest homelessness charity in the city, the organisation prides itself on adapting to the current needs of the city to best support the clients we serve and Mathew has been a driving force in our recent regeneration. He has taken the time to communicate with the entirety of the staff and the trustee board as well as volunteering his time at our weekend breakfasts serving rough sleepers to better understand what Lifeshare is about and imbed himself into the team. Matt has been instrumental in structuring our digital inclusion initiative, the Manchester Digital Collective which distributed 200+

devices to Manchester residents last year and over 7000 GB of data. Matt is happy to give of his time to sit on interview panels, attend conferences, and come to events to help support the charity in any way he can. Honestly, we are lucky to have a trustee like Matt and his dedication to shaping our growth strategy to help improve service is admirable and gives my great hope to see positive development and growth in 2023 and beyond.

Brian Johnson



Brian Johnson became Chair of Friends of Didsbury park (FoDP) in 2014. By 2018 Brian formally registered FoDP with the Charity Commission. Brian is an inspiring Chair and leads by example. The park has become beautiful and well-maintained and is enjoyed by the local community and visitors alike. The RHS has given the park gold standard awards for the last five years. Brian's main achievements are: Hands-on leadership of volunteers who have given more than 31,000 hours of work since 2014; Brian welcomes individuals from all walks of life and offers discreet support to people who experience physical or mental health problems. Brian led recruitment drives and FoDP has 200 paying members. Brian strategically

leads the board, especially in grant applications. FoDP has received funds around £20K per year - to make numerous improvements to the park. Brian encourages annual community activities that are well attended. Brian provides a clear strategic vision for the park, exemplified by the annual workplans agreed with MCC, a 5-year sustainability strategy and pursuing Fields in Trust status. All this is due to Brian's outstanding leadership of the board. He encourages each trustee and makes full use of their talents.



Volunteering Team

Nominations must show:

- How the team has made an impact to the organisation and the wider community
- Give a demonstration of how a team has worked together on a specific project/challenge
- Where the team have remained organised and shown innovation

Emmie's Kitchen



Since June 18, Emmie's Kitchen (EK) has made a huge impact. The dedication and commitment of the volunteers have ensured a reliable, quality service, ensuring that (RMCH) parents receive hot meals, snack bags and toiletries. We have distributed over 30,000 meals over the last 5 years to the community of parents that stay hospital with their child. Each December the volunteering team works together to provide a Christmas goody bag for parents in hospital. Additional fundraising is required and partnership with other organisations in Manchester. The bags contain books,

pyjamas, chocolate, toiletries, and snacks. In the last 3 years the volunteers have packed and distributed 750 Christmas bags. Prior to March 2020 EK provided a face to face monthly free cooked meal. COVID changed that, volunteers had to re-organise the way the service was delivered. Thinking innovatively the team flexed the service and started a weekly Friday Night Takeaway to ensure that parents were supported throughout COVID and up to present day. Due to restrictions of COVID we had to reduce the volunteer team from 30 plus to 10 people. The remaining dedicated volunteers have run the service for the last 3 years.



Volunteering Team

MASH Volunteer Team

The MASH volunteer team has made a great impact in reducing barriers to support for some of the city's most marginalised people. MASH volunteers ensure that vulnerable women have options and access to sexual health services, food and drink, mental health support and more. MASH's volunteers help out on the streets, on outreach, in our busy drop-in centre and in parlours across the city to ensure women sex working in Manchester have access to support free of judgement and stigma. Many of the women who access MASH are subject to the increasing impact of the cost of living, often homeless and severely at-risk while on the streets throughout the night. MASH's volunteers go above and beyond, giving their time across the day - some at 9am, some up til midnight - to make sure women have a say in their own outcomes. At a time when the city goes through continual redevelopment, it is especially important that MASH's volunteers play a vital role as people of Manchester helping one another to the basic rights and support which all should have access to.

The SPACE Group Manchester

Space have been a whirl of energy and innovation in supporting families. Working in partnership Space have dramatically increased the footfall at the SEND Local Offer Drop Ins which are community based information sessions and support for SEND families. Space have made a remarkable impact on our summer programme. The volunteer parents from Space volunteer their time and run the daily, family sessions. They have been a leader in planning and organising some of the best attended, most inclusive provision the city has known. The Space team came into their own when they were given the opportunity to run some ice skating sessions over Christmas. In their own time and expense they created Social Stories on video to support children with Autism and social, emotional and mental health issues... to understand the context and environment ahead of the sessions running. Many families told us they engaged precisely because of the innovative preparations and thought involved. They felt included and catered for. They would not have ever considered going to an event like this before.



Volunteer Involving Organisation

Nominations must show how the organisation:

- Promotes, retains and rewards volunteers/volunteering
- Makes volunteers feel part of the team
- Promotes volunteering through their vision and values

W.E.L Safe CIC



At the heart of W.E.L.Safe are the volunteers, coming from different walks of life, with various skills, experiences, and backgrounds. W.E.L.Safe value diversity and are proud to have a diverse group of volunteers. W.E.L.Safe offers free training to all volunteers in areas such as event/festival welfare, substance misuse, mental health, safeguarding and medical awareness and offer invaluable experiences new skills, with opportunities to meet like-minded individuals and a chance to make a positive impact on the community. Volunteers enjoy free entry to festivals and guestlists for events, food and travel

expenses are also covered, as are volunteer incentives, including opportunities to travel to festivals overseas. Volunteers also can become team leaders, gain work experience, and make a difference in the wider community. Overall, W.E.L.Safe offers a welcoming and inclusive environment to contribute to a worthy cause while gaining invaluable experiences and skills. W.E.L.Safe's commitment to promoting harm reduction and diversity makes it an excellent opportunity for those looking to make a positive difference in the world. W.E.L.Safe recognises the importance of volunteers and the valuable contribution they make to the organisation, and are committed to supporting volunteers in their roles and ensuring that they have a positive experience while.



Volunteer Involving Organisation

Caritas Cornerstone



"Volunteering at Cornerstone has really helped my confidence and made me a better person. Without it, I'd just be sat at home and would probably go back to drink and drugs. I've never been able to ask for help but the staff make me feel so welcome and I'm starting to feel confident enough to reach out when I need it and help others too." The Volunteer Team is at the heart of Cornerstone, a day centre that is run WITH not just FOR people who are homeless. People who use the service are encouraged to volunteer and help run activities and prepare and serve our community lunch. At the Monday Ideas Meeting they discuss future plans for the service, how to spend grant money,

plan events and give ideas for improving the service. They also help in the staff recruitment process, joining interview panels and giving feedback. We couldn't and wouldn't want to run Cornerstone without our wonderful volunteer team. Having volunteers and people who use the service involved in the design and delivery of it, enables Cornerstone to truly represent the rich and diverse community that it serves.

Revive CIO



Volunteers are involved at every level of Revive. We recruit for experience and values and target people with lived experience, alongside indigenous people with specific skills. For example, this year we ran a recruitment campaign at the University to attract younger volunteers with social media skills and we continually approach existing and ex-service users who can support casework through translation and advocacy. Our approach to reward and retention fosters commitment to our work and values. We regularly involve volunteers in service review days to plan strategically, we invest in training and support and our volunteers' summer trip

rewards them for their commitment. Volunteers have regular one-to-one pastoral support from members of the team. In my own case, for example, Revive's manager made time to counsel me when my father died last year. The success of this approach is demonstrated by the longevity of a significant number of our volunteers. Several have been with us for twenty years and we routinely receive feedback from both long established and newer volunteers that they find working for us very rewarding - not only because they gain satisfaction from helping people but they also feel part of our 'family'.



Service User Involving Organisation

Nominations must show:

- How they involve the people who benefit from the service in delivery and shaping the service

Booth Centre



Coproduction is at the heart of the Booth Centre's work and we work closely with people who come to the Centre on all aspects of the design, delivery and evaluation of our service. We do this by: Making sure people we support play an active role throughout our hiring & recruitment process, from designing a new role to sitting on the interview panel. Consultation via our advisory board, consisting of people affected by homelessness, looking at policies, procedures and programme changes. This body has so far influenced our personal images and CCTV policies and our newly devised strategic aims for 2023-2026. Co-producing elements of our external communications -

including this nomination- to ensure we are amplifying the voices of those who have been disenfranchised by homelessness. Suggestions and feedback from our visitors- whether communicated via day-to-day conversations or through regular service reviews- directly inform our programme. Our inclusive volunteering programme invites people with experience of homelessness to play an active role in the running of our community kitchen. We co-deliver training about service user involvement, sharing successes and best practice with statutory agencies. Co-production fosters a shared sense of pride and ownership in our service and celebrates community.

Future Directions CIC



We offer paid employment and recruit people with learning disabilities, who we support, to get involved in different ways, to improve what we do and make things better: Confirm & Challenge™ group find out what we do well/ what needs to change, and feedback to Board of Directors. Make Policies & Procedures easy-read and accessible. Send out questionnaires to people we support / staff / family members. Collate results and make action plans based on what people tell us. Getting it Right™ group visit other people we support to check they are happy with their support. Make observations, write reports based on their findings and share with the person supported, manager and board members. Interview staff. Deliver monthly training on

staff induction - talk about what it's like to have a learning disability and how they want staff to treat them. In addition to these paid opportunities, we also hold regular informal events to involve people we support: Lunch with the Board. Engagements sessions in each of the areas where we provide support. Visits from Senior Management Team to houses to meet people we support.



Service User Involving Organisation

Manchester Refugee Support Network



MRSN works by and for asylum seekers and refugees and could not function without keeping this at the forefront of all practice and strategy. We are the only user-led Greater Manchester wide agency working on asylum and refugee issues and our peer organisations recognise this, as evidenced by their enthusiasm for co-working with us, especially when we facilitate user involvement in project work.

We are user-led: Our Board is composed only of representatives of refugee community organisations in GM. We involve users in planning and delivery: We see this as a crucial way for existing users to take part in UK social and economic activity when they face far more barriers to that than most citizens; new users to quickly recognise MRSN as a place staffed by people who have had similar experiences as their own and speak their language. This is crucial to our rapidly gaining new users confidence so we can fully understand their circumstances and help them avert crises. Therefore most of our volunteers and the majority of staff (including our Manager) have direct experience of the asylum/refugee system. We go further by training, facilitating users collective influence on what we and other agencies do.



Inspiring Campaign

Nominations must show:

- How the organisation saw a need for change or action, what they did and how that has made a difference.

SEND Together (Caritas Shrewsbury) - Carla Mining

SEND Together is a support group for parent / carers who have SEN children - meets weekly - a place to offload and help with forms and advice. The group also organises workshops to build on the support and advice on offer. Realising that many families with SEN children struggle to attend fun events - so the group organised, activities for SEN families weekly during last years summer holidays, as well as regularly trips and activities such as an organised bike activity in Wythenshawe park and now organises a monthly SEN Den for families. The group is also actively transforming a room at St. Aidan's Centre into a Sensory space, so the Centre is more welcoming and responsive to the needs of SEN children. The group is represented on Greater Manchester Citizens, actively engaged in the governments SEN review and has has campaigned on improving support for SEN children. This has included meeting MP's and councillors across Greater Manchester and speaking out on public platforms. The group has also supported students at a special needs school and SEN young people with getting their voices heard!

Respect for all



Respect for All was established in 2002, by four counsellors, all with either personal or professional experience of our client group (people on the autism spectrum, people with learning disabilities and their parents, partners, and carers). The founders recognised that there was a lack of specialised counselling services specifically for this neurodiverse community in Greater Manchester and worked hard over the last twenty years to secure funding which has enabled them to continue to offer a free service, for some of the most vulnerable people who would be unable to pay for private counselling, and do not response well to universal neurotypical therapy services provided by the NHS. Over the last 12-months in the Manchester area we have supported 245 people, 52% children and young people under the age of 25 and 48% adults. Of which 182 are autistic and 63 with a learning disability. Counselling was provided through a mix of online and face-to-face sessions, which is based on the needs of the person. Our counsellors are all very inspiring in how they support our clients as they often go above and beyond to support our client, often providing informal advocacy for them outside of the counselling support.



Inspiring Campaign

SPICE Group at Future Directions CIC



Reducing food waste is one of the easiest things we can do to help fight climate change, however food waste prevention campaigns are often inaccessible to people with learning disabilities. With funding from #InOurNature we developed an easy-read cookbook to help people with learning disabilities cook more and waste less. We recruited people with learning disabilities to co-develop this project and ensure the cookbook was accessible and easy-to-understand for everyone. The cookbook includes healthy recipes, alongside advice on food waste prevention (using your freezer,

understanding food labels, storing food correctly, cooking with leftovers). We also made videos to accompany the cookbook which enabled us to reach people who might not understand words. We printed 200 copies and shared them with people we support, and with other learning disability organisations across Manchester. We also delivered training sessions about food waste prevention. This project has provided skills and knowledge to help drive positive change and ensure a more sustainable future. People with learning disabilities have often been excluded from conversations around protecting our environment so we're really proud to have worked with them to provide them with the skills so they can make a positive difference and help protect planet Earth.



Partnership and Collaboration

Supported by
Great Minds Together



Nominations must show:

- How they have worked in partnership or collaborated to make a difference and fulfil a need in the community
- How working in partnership meant their task was successful/more effective

Afrocats



Afrocats x Whitworth launched in February 2022 to ensure that the gallery is a space of sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers. Afrocats artists from diverse backgrounds 'takeover' the gallery with multicultural activities encouraging those seeking asylum and diverse young people to enter the gallery for the first time. All activities are drop-in and entry is free, removing as many barriers as possible. Travel expenses, a drink, and snacks are covered for every Afrocats family. Afrocats volunteers from diverse backgrounds join forces with Whitworth volunteers providing opportunities to socialise and create new friendships outside of their own culture.

Since the partnership began 5548 families have engaged in the activities. 90% of families visiting had never visited the gallery before. February half term 2023 saw 1987 families participating over the three days, a 62% increase from the previous year. The partnership has also led to a change in practice at the gallery by providing family information and activity signage in Urdu, Farsi, and Persian. Afrocats artists have helped diversify the Whitworth artist practitioner team. And Afrocats delivered numerous training opportunities to all Whitworth staff so they have the knowledge, understanding, and empathy needed to welcome those seeking asylum in the city.



Partnership and Collaboration

Homeless House



I would like to nominate Antonia Gough from Homeless House for this award as she has been a beacon of hope and comfort for the Homeless Community in Manchester. She has been volunteering to help out in various ways for a long time. In 2018/19, Homeless House was formalised and we, The Robert Street Hub, collaborated on various projects to raise awareness, funds, and resources for the Homeless. HH has helped provide over 20,000 25K meals and over 30,000 drinks as well as Clothing and sleeping bags. HH organise literacy workshops in 3 prisons (Manchester, Garth, and Wymott), and help mentor through sports programs. HH has worked with other relevant organisations such

as MASH, THE LOWRY, BARTON MOSS DETENTION CENTRE, and AUDACIOUS CHURCH. HH has been sponsored by The Robert Street Hub, fashion brand www.isawitfirst.com, the EDWINDA LILLEY TRUST, the Calico Group, The Arc, and Delphi Medical. Antonia is dedicated and passionate about helping the Homeless community in Manchester and fully deserves recognition for her commitment.

Castlefield Clean and Green and Friends of Sackville Gardens



In Manchester city centre, space is always at a premium, not least green space, which is confined to various nooks often tucked away amongst historical buildings. In two of these spaces are Sackville gardens and Castlefield Bowl. Upkeep of these tranquil oasis's relies on the dedication and hard work of a committed bunch of volunteers. Manchester is fortunate to house such volunteers - Castlefield Clean and Green and Friends of Sackville Gardens. Because of them and their spirit of collaboration, residents and visitors to Manchester can

access natural spaces that are peaceful, clean and tidy. In March 2023 they hosted a joint event called Grounds of the City where volunteers from both groups came together to work on an area of neglected garden at Castlefield, call the Granary Garden. Volunteers from the neighbouring Castlefield Viaduct also got involved and transformed the area over the course of a day. Together the volunteers were able to clear the garden area and plant a variety of new plants provided to them. Eyes are already on the next collaboration event this summer with a summer wellbeing and nature-based celebration event being planned at Sackville Gardens.



Creative Community Spirit

Supported by
Great Minds Together



Nominations must show:

- **How they have developed a creative outlet or project to inspire hope and unity during the last year.**

Silver Screen Dreams Project



We've been training Wythenshawe residents as film-makers to make a feature film about community. Many of them struggle with mental health issues, 4 are ex-offenders, 2 are retired and one is a Ukranian refugee. However, they have overcome obstacles and have made adverts for local businesses, 3 short films about mental health/ exclusion and have become a strong supportive community. One participant told us how she had often felt rejected by other communities but brought in a T-shirt saying 'accepted' which is her reality now. She has blossomed, growing in confidence and self-esteem. Lana, our Ukranian refugee came to the group soon after

arriving in the UK and struggled with English but now talks about how much she loves her film-making team and has got a job in the local cafe. One of our ex-offenders has a story of difficult mental health battles and is starting up groups to support others with mental health difficulties. We are hugely proud of all of them. The story of the feature film 'Silver Screen Dreams' is a message of hope and community transformation showing at pop up cinemas in Wythenshawe in the Autumn and on Amazon Prime.



Creative Community Spirit

Christina Jones



Chrissy Jones is a learning disabled artist based in Greater Manchester. Since 2016, Chrissy has been playing with her feeling of being invisible with her Shadow Girl idea. In 2022 she expanded and developed her story into Shadow Girl - the origins. Through performance, Chrissy is driven to promote positive discussion around learning disability. Shadow Girl - The origins is a Makaton incorporated adventure story of a Girl named Sabrina. Sabrina is a girl who has a vivid imagination, and along with lots of puppet friends, she goes on a journey to find herself. It is a family show aimed at an

audience aged 8 and over. Between May and June 2022, Chrissy toured her show around community spaces and Manchester library's including Central Library, Wythenshawe Library, Gorse Hill Studios, The Contact Theatre M6 Theatre and Harpurhey Library. Following these shows Chrissy took part in an after show discussion, opening up conversations around disability and Inclusion. As a person living with a learning disability, Chrissy comes from a lived experience perspective. Chrissy is now on a mission to bring these themes into the fore front and create a space to talk.

The Whitworth Still Parents



Still Parents is the Whitworth's ongoing programme to support parents who have experienced baby loss, in partnership with Sands (Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Charity). A monthly workshop programme encourages participants to collectively explore their experiences of loss through art and creativity. The Still Parents exhibition, the first of its kind, was on display at the Whitworth from September 2021 - December 2022 creating a platform to share personal stories of baby loss, open up conversations and break the silence that surrounds the subject. Every aspect of the exhibition was informed by the Still Parents participants from the content to curation to interpretation. The

participants' artworks were displayed alongside works from the Whitworth's collection chosen by them. It was their own words, stories and responses that visitors read too. Still Parents reflects a wider societal need as 1 in 4 pregnancies ends in loss in the UK. With a notable absence in bereavement support this pioneering model of collective, creative provision has enabled a caring community to be built, inspiring hope and unity, and allowing parents new ways to navigate and express their grief. 110 bereaved families have been supported through these creative workshops and over 200,000 visited the exhibition.



Community Cohesion

Supported by Our Manchester Funds
Team, Manchester City Council



MANCHESTER
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Nominations must show:

- How they have organised activities which have brought together people from across more than one community. These can be communities which are about a shared place, a shared identity or shared interests.
- How they promote growing together in harmony rather than conflict and celebrate the diverse nature of the people who live, work and study in this city.

Lingua GM



Over the last 12 months Lingua.GM team have worked alongside many different VCSE organisations, NHS and city council to build connectivity, cohesion with service activities, better access to health, culturally appropriate resources, training, volunteering, peer connecting to strengthen understanding & social needs of bilingual residents needs & unmet needs. Below is highlight of some of the activities, engagements & support provided to residents and across the system. We have supported 540 residents, 12 different languages with direct mental health support, 85 wellbeing, peer support group sessions. Produced culturally appropriate

leaflets, audios, video raising awareness of COVID, 5 ways to well-being, Delirium, Trauma informed toolkits, 16 different languages, cultural celebration events, Persian new year across Manchester Afghan Evacuee hotels for site residents, Queen Jubilee celebrations, Emergency cultural food/vouchers to residents during EID, Ramadan & Christmas. As part of all projects, we have been involving all ages & generation 0-100 years of age above to take part in building the legacy of celebrating, embracing their cultural norms through shared lived experiences, cultural heritage & background across the Diverse communities in Manchester. We have been building on all our projects and activities legacy by archiving personal stories, memories with the wider community and organizational histories, stories which will be relevant to our organization's legacy. The purpose of all activities delivered, achieved have been based on bring people together in an informal & friendly setting, creating bonds, connections, understanding, suitable to topics that relates to the development, building on enhancing services for many generations ahead.



Community Cohesion

HideOut Youth Zone



HideOut ensures its youth provision is inclusive, supports community cohesion, and provides an environment where members from diverse demographics and ethnic communities feel safe, involved and welcome. HideOut welcomes a membership of over 6,000 young people, with 67% being those from this demographic. HideOut holds various events throughout the year to acknowledge and celebrate its diverse community. Local young people, their families and members of the community are invited to the Youth Zone to enjoy a night of activities together. In the last year, HideOut held both a Black History Month event and a community iftar event which saw guests break fast together in the holy month of Ramadan.

Over 150 people attended the events which saw activities to encourage them to explore cultures, beliefs and heritage, with young people being central to the evening. Young people hosted the evenings and entertained with musical, dance and spoken word performances, developed with youth workers at the Youth Zone. HideOut is passionate about young people exploring their identity and history and encourages cohesion through recognising differences but celebrating them too. HideOut understands the importance of young people being actively part of their community and continues to promote this into their futures.

Manchester City of Sanctuary



Our monthly Ladies Coffee Mornings, socials and wellbeing walks, alongside our weekly football, netball and textile sessions, connect over 150 people - providing opportunities for people to improve their mental health and wellbeing through positive connection to one another and the community they live in. By holding these sessions in a range of places, we ensure those seeking asylum are able to navigate the city, learn to access some of our incredible spaces and meet a whole host of people; some in similar situations, others local Mancunians keen to foster a culture of welcome and hospitality. In particular, our ladies football sessions have created some beautiful friendships - I'm thinking specifically of three

women - who have developed a strong friendship through sport and now when they see each other have so much joy and happiness as a result. So important thing when many people in the asylum process experience intense isolation. A group of men who have met at our Men's Gym Session now go to Rusholme for chicken and rice afterwards. Many living in hotels, they can come together, to socialise, to engage with the city, develop networks and experience the local area.



Social Economy Champion

Supported by Rubo Hazardous Waste Management Ltd



This award is for those organisations who trade and seek to make a surplus, but unlike traditional businesses, they reinvest all their profits to fight for positive social change.

Nominations must show:

- how the organisation creates positive change, and puts positive change at the centre of its work.

Sofra Manchester



Najwa runs SofraMcr and Daliah Cafe a new Social Enterprise Cafe in Burnage from the space at a Southway Housing supported living site for older people. They have really listened to the community and are offering affordable menu choices local people for older people, local ethnically diverse families, people needing a business lunch and take away meal options for people on the run. Although only being open since Jan2023 they now have external catering clients and have trained 10+ unemployed Middle Eastern and South Asian women. They have increased confidence, cooking skills and accredited food safety/hygiene training. Najwa is Iranian, a single mum and working her socks off to

meet multiple community needs, several social challenges and build her own financial resilience and that of other. She has recently been supported through Flourish to develop her business plan, 3 year cashflow and build her confidence/connections. She has now made it through the trial period at Southway. Although she will seek to secure a range of grants to aid with community outreach, training for volunteers/staff and creative events she is trading food, event tickets and training places. She regularly offers free meals to those who can't afford them and has endless compassion for anyone, from any background facing hardship across her community.



Social Economy Champion

BEE Adventures CIC



BEE Adventures CIC is a Non-for-profit company that offers affordable eco-friendly adventures, expeditions, and outdoor courses to adults, improving mental health within society. The surplus from these events along with sponsors and grants funding, funds their community project aimed at helping people with addiction, poor mental health, and depression to get outside for recovery. We take these groups out with the help of volunteers at no cost to the participant. They are provided transport, lunch and an awesome adventures all for free in the hopes of welcoming them to a healthier lifestyle. Ryan was sponsored by a charity to take part in an adventure when I was 17, this changed his life and now he's on a mission to change others. The BBC ran an article on his story:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-59729280> Bee Adventures CIC covers from Manchester to Lancaster. The Founders James and Ryan grew up in North Manchester (Failsworth, Newton Heath, and Moston) with few opportunities to spend time outdoors, now they have taken over 1000 people from Manchester on adventures all over the UK! They have recently received National Lottery Grant and NHS Grant funding to further expand our wellbeing project!

Chorlton Bike Deliveries



Chorlton Bike Deliveries is more than just a bike delivery service. We are a collective of people with a shared vision to make our community a happier and healthier place to live. And we're using bikes to drive this positive change. Our mission is for all local deliveries and journeys to be made by bike or on foot. Our commercial arm takings (e.g. contracts with NHS, a workplace catering company and more) are ploughed back into community activity. Here, we deliver unsold food to food banks, collect pre-loved clothing, books etc for charity shops and more. We also increase access to bikes via our bike library, upcycling unused bikes for

refugees and offering piloted trishaw rides to less mobile people. Born from grassroots response to covid, CBD has become a successful not-for-profit cooperative, with over 50 members who share our values and advocate for our vision. Our deliveries are carried out by voluntary and paid pedal-pioneers covering around 1,000 miles every month on owned or loaned ecargobikes. This cuts carbon emissions, improves air quality and reduces traffic creating safer places where children can play and breathe fresh air. Put simply, this makes our streets nicer places to live.



Tackling Inequalities

Supported by Manchester
Integrated Care Partnership

Manchester
Integrated Care Partnership

Nominations must show:

How they addressed issues of equality issues and challenged discrimination during the last year. This could include inequality on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity or poverty.

Derek Jarman Pocket Park volunteers, Pride in Ageing, LGBT Foundation



Volunteers from the Pride In Ageing (PiA) programme at LGBT Foundation have worked in partnership with Manchester Art Gallery to create the Derek Jarman Pocket Park in front of the gallery in the heart of the city. It's inspired by artist, gardener and gay rights activist Derek Jarman. PiA was launched by the LGBT Foundation to ensure the voices of LGBTQ+ people over the age of 50 are heard when it comes to ageing policy and activity. The group of older LGBTQ+ volunteers, many of whom campaigned for decades against homophobic, biphobic

and transphobic policies and attitudes, have created a vibrant new green space for Manchester which increases visibility of issues facing LGBTQ+ communities, particularly those over 50, and explores issues such as climate justice. The volunteers' own stories life stories are told through QR codes, quotes and images in the garden itself, and a zine, blog and numerous media appearances have told the story behind the garden's creation. The Pocket Park is open to all. It's used as a space to host activities for families, wellbeing and English as a Foreign Language classes. Visitors, local workers, and residents use it as a relaxing haven, insulated from the hectic city.



Tackling Inequalities

Mustard Tree



Mustard Tree's mission is to combat poverty and prevent homelessness. Our Ancoats hub supports thousands of individuals and families each month through our Community Shop, Food Club, training streams, vocational courses and creative classes. The majority of people Mustard Tree supports are in danger of becoming homeless or facing hardship. We are proud to offer a service that is accessible to all. It is all faith and no faith, no appointment necessary and face-to-face. It is warm and welcoming, dignified and diverse. While we face disenfranchisement amongst our clients and hostile legislation against those who come to

Mustard Tree for support the need for a safe space where anyone can express themselves has never been greater. Through our ground floor services alone, we are seeing upwards of 100 people a day using our Food Club to access low-cost essentials. Our commitment to 40% gifting of furniture means we can support people into their new tenancy with free items to make a house a home. Our 121-debt advice helps people advocate for themselves by challenging sanctions and ultimately preventing homelessness. Mustard Tree welcomes everyone from Collyhurst to Cameroon. We operate a culture of kindness and value the contributions of all.

Young Identity



From its beginnings Young Identity (YI) sought to empower people from marginalised communities to be part of the arts by offering free writing workshops, reimbursing young people for their travels and YI tackles inequalities, evident in the way the Artistic Director champions marginalised Young Artists for productions and publications. YI engages young people through offering creative support, by having workshops with industry professionals, it means that young people can see themselves represented, which could only give them the belief that

they could one day they could work in the arts or be in a position of leadership. Also 80% of YI's most recently audited cohort of young people cited YI as being key to their development and subsequent career progression. Some of their current roles include Engagement Officer at Manchester UNESCO City of Literature, Young People's Producer and award-winning playwright at Contact, News Reporter at ITV, Actor at BBC, Freelance Theatre Writer/Director, Probation Officer at Manchester Probation Service, Barrister for the Financial Ombudsman, Representatives for Cultural Heritage Youth Council, Board members at Manchester Youth Task Force and Young Person's Guarantee and Published author at Wrecking Ball Press. YI also have No Disclaimers where participants poems from the workshop are published.



Dr Sylvia Sham Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Voluntary Sector - Winner

Nominations must show:

- how the individual has made a significant contribution to the voluntary and community sector over a number of years.

Peggy Connarty



Peggy Connarty is without a doubt one of the best known of our volunteers. Peggy started volunteering with ICCM when she retired from nursing over 30 years ago and is still going strong. Her passion for our organisation and the Irish community in Manchester is undeniable. Over the years she has given so much of herself to the organisation, as a trustee, as a volunteer, and as a community member. Peggy always voices her opinion and offers guidance to ensure we are offering the best service we can to our community. Her local knowledge of our service users is invaluable and Peggy

is a champion of the wider services we offer as a charity. As vocal as Peggy can be when she feels we need to improve she also trumpets our successes. Irish community care is not just somewhere she volunteers; it is a part of her identity. Without her the services we offer would be worse off. It is hard to list everything Peggy does for us; she is at home carrying sandwiches as she is telling them how to contact our advice service.



Thank you to our Award supporters

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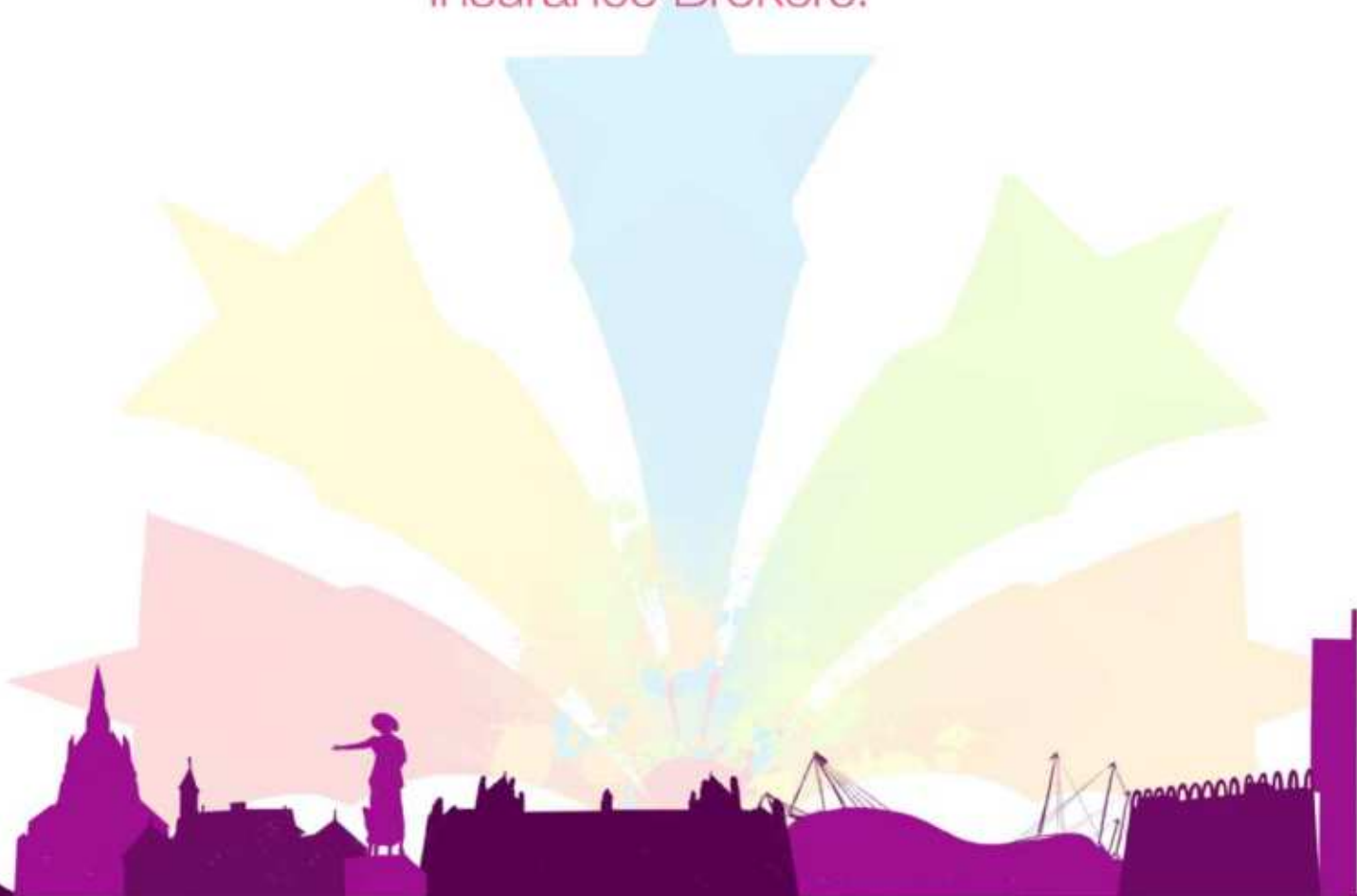
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Thank you!

Finally, we want to thank every single one of the staff, volunteers and trustees in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector across Manchester for their work.

Thank
you!

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