



## Funding support

### Sickle Cell Care Manchester (SCCM)

Sickle cell anaemia is a serious blood disorder that is inherited and it causes the red blood cells, which carry oxygen around the body to develop abnormally. The disorder mainly affects people of African, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, Eastern Mediterranean and Asian origin. In the UK, sickle cell disorders are most commonly seen in African and Caribbean people.

Normal red blood cells are flexible and disc-shaped, but in sickle cell anaemia they can become rigid and shaped like a crescent (or sickle). The abnormal cells are unable to move around as easily as normal shaped cells and can block blood vessels, resulting in tissue and organ damage and episodes of severe pain.

Since SCCM featured on the radio raising awareness of the disorder, parents, carers and those living with the condition have expressed the need for a community based organisation. The aim of SCCM is to, empower and support those affected by sickle cell and raise awareness, understanding and support for the condition.

The organisation was founded by carers and individuals who live with the condition and who felt that there wasn't enough support within the community. It started as regular meetings then evolved into a group of individuals who gave their time to attend monthly meetings to establish ways forward to improve and empower the lives of those affected by the condition. We conducted hospital and home visits, facilitated Q&A sessions on the local radio and attended events held in the community. Our growing presence meant that the group needed to be more structured to develop further. SCCM is now the only community based registered sickle cell charity in the North West.

With much needed support from Macc, we were able to apply for a grant to establish an office base and have a visible presence within the community to offer support services.

There is a wealth of experience within the group. Individuals, who are carers, have great insight and coping mechanisms in which to empower those who have young children and may need support.





As Chair of SCCM, I live with the condition and work within the NHS as a Communications Consultant and as a Minister, I help people in need and carry out pastoral duties.

Chantelle our Administrator also has sickle cell and is passionate about the cause. She has great co-ordination and administrative skills and is very sensitive to the needs of others with the condition. There are many others in the group whose skills range from Community Development workers, Nursing, Human Resources and mentoring skills.

Together we are very capable of developing and sustaining a bespoke service.

We are connected to the community and have links with leaders at grass roots level. We also partner with the NHS and have connections with the National Screening Programme and Professors within Universities.

We welcome donations in order to support the work in this ever changing, economical climate.

For more information about the group, visit: [www.sicklecellcaremanchester.co.uk](http://www.sicklecellcaremanchester.co.uk), or email: [admin@sicklecellcaremanchester.co.uk](mailto:admin@sicklecellcaremanchester.co.uk)

To watch a movie about sickle cell produced by Sickle Cell Care Manchester, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/noe23u9>