Survivors Manchester supports male adult survivors of child sex abuse and rape. The group had worked with another infrastructure support agency and was looking round for other sources of help when Manchester Community Central was launched.

Duncan said “it can feel very lonely when you’re trying to set up a group from scratch, looking for funding, and finding the right people to be on the Board. I originally wanted help with funding but Manchester Community Central have helped in so many other ways too.”

In the first instance Manchester Community Central helped the group to run funding searches and decide which were appropriate funds to apply for. “There is a lot of support around in books and on websites which is great, but we needed more than that. We needed someone to talk to, a way of cutting through the fog by explaining what things mean so we could work out what we needed to do and when.”

The group are under no illusions about never-ending support from Manchester Community Central. “It’s been made clear to us from the start and we have agreed the point at which we will be ready to move on.”

As part of this exit plan Manchester Community Central has used local knowledge and experiences to link Survivors Manchester to other groups and organisations, creating a new network of support. Duncan’s advice to other groups out there – “pick up the phone. Ask the question, if they don’t know the answer they will find someone who does.”