The State of the VCSE Sector 2017 Report provides a comprehensive overview of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector in Manchester, following up on our previous research in 2013.

The report is part of a Greater Manchester wide project to analyse and understand the role the VCSE sector plays in local communities and the economy of Greater Manchester.

- **Maximising inward investment**: Increase the money and resources coming into the sector. We want to work with major national grant-giving organisations on ways to create a more equitable distribution of their funds. We want to work with statutory organisations and private businesses to increase the number and size of grant-giving organisations that give primarily to Manchester causes.

- **Increasing employment**: Increase our ability to employ Manchester people. We want public, private and VCSE sector partners to recognise and enhance our vital contribution to the employment of people in Manchester and enhance our ability to act as a route to employment for local people.

- **Increasing our impact in areas of low VCSE activity**: Increase the number and effectiveness of organisations. We want to work with partners to develop our sector’s ability to target our expertise and resources to increase VCSE activity within selected areas of Manchester.

- **Increasing mutual support**: Develop the means to increase the quantity and quality of mutual support between organisations and people working in the sector.

- **Connecting Manchester people to the local VCSE sector**: Improve the use of social media to communicate and interact. We want to work with the vibrant and expert digital media sector in Manchester to improve the way the VCSE sector uses digital technology (including social media) to reach more people and develop new approaches to support and community activities.

- **Working across Greater Manchester**: Collaborate with other boroughs to develop a shared ‘Way Forward’. We will work with partners in neighbouring boroughs across Greater Manchester to strengthen the contribution the VCSE sector can make to eradicating inequality.

For more information about the VCSE Sector in Manchester and to find out how you can get involved in taking these recommendations forward, please contact Macc on 0161 834 9823 or email: info@macc.org.uk

June 2017. Produced by Macc, a charity registered in England and Wales no. 1145921 and a company limited by guarantee no. 778593
The VCSE sector in Manchester is an essential part of the social fabric of this city. Our research shows that Manchester’s VCSE sector continues to provide many important services and activities in all local communities. It also continues to occupy an important strategic position between local policy development and everyday life. The sector plays a key role in fostering strong and cohesive communities within the City of Manchester.

The VCSE sector makes a significant contribution to the economy of Manchester. Not only do we provide a wide range of community amenities and services, we also focus a great deal of our work on tackling poverty and inequalities. The sector is also a sizeable employer and brings additional investment into the city.

**Main types of work the sector does**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale of Manchester’s 3,394 VCSE organisations</th>
<th>Main types of work</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large (Over £1m)</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (£100k-£1m)</td>
<td>Health and Wellbeing</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro (under £10K)</td>
<td>Education, training &amp; research</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small (£10k-£100K)</td>
<td>Economic wellbeing</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The VCSE sector in Manchester made 6.1 million interventions with beneficiaries in the last year. This shows how the scale of the VCSE sector creates an enormous positive contribution to the lives of the people who live and work in the city.

**Volunteering in Manchester is an asset**

110,900 volunteers giving a total of 278,600 hours each week

Whilst the headline figures are positive with more residents volunteering than ever before, however the number of hours individuals volunteer has decreased since 2013. Potential reasons for this include:

- Impacts of ‘austerity’ — reductions in the time people can afford to spend in unpaid work and welfare benefit reforms which limit the time permitted for volunteering
- A growth in placements focusing on employability which take up additional organisational support
- A growing mismatch between what organisations need volunteers for and what volunteers wish to do
- The loss in Volunteer Co-ordinator posts in many organisations. This has limited capacity organisations have available for volunteer recruitment and also inductions, ongoing support and training

The contribution of volunteers in Manchester’s VCSE sector is valued at £252.1 million per year

The contribution of volunteers in Manchester’s VCSE sector is valued at £252.1 million per year.

**Where local VCSE organisations work**

- Partnership working is key to the sector.
  - 26% of Manchester organisations are part of a VCSE-led consortium
  - 79% are actively seeking to work more closely with other VCSE organisations

Public sector relationships are well established. Respondents told us about their dealings with local public bodies:

- 84% with Manchester City Council
- 61% with the University of Manchester
- 58% with Greater Manchester Police
- 39% with NHS Manchester CCG

Whilst relationships in Manchester are broadly positive, there is still work to do on collaboration with the private sector and around Greater Manchester Devolution.

- 40% of organisations said they have ‘not very much’ direct dealings with private businesses while 29% said they have ‘none at all’
- 51% of Manchester organisations have had contact with the emerging Greater Manchester structures