



Manchester Community Central Quarterly News

**Issue
August 2016**

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1 – 10 October 2016

Would you like to raise awareness of your organisation?
Celebrate your community and the work you do together?
Recruit new supporters, volunteers and funds?
If so, then we would love for you to hold an event as part of this year's Festival!



Development of the Spirit of Manchester Festival 2016 is now well under way, and your involvement is crucial to its success! Organisations in the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector often hold events in order to raise their profile within the community, but with so many groups in Manchester, it can be difficult for every group to get the recognition that their work deserves.

The Spirit of Manchester Festival encourages groups to all get involved at once. We can thereby magnify the impact of the VCSE sector and create a city-wide celebration of the incredible work that we all do.

**Supporting our
Voluntary and
Community
Sector**

Spirit of Manchester Festival 2016

Getting involved will enable your group and cause to get that crucial publicity to help attract supporters. To join in, all you need to do is put on an event, big or small, between 1-10 October. This could be an event that you hold regularly or a special event for the occasion. Your Festival event could take a variety of forms, such as an open day, a coffee morning, a bake off, an art exhibition, a sports match, a fun fair/day or something a bit more creative!



We are encouraging as many groups as possible to take part. Macc will provide you with a Spirit of Manchester Festival logo and offer support with promoting your event online and through our communication channels. Resources and ideas can be found on the Spirit of Manchester webpage:

<http://bit.ly/1XwrXO8>

By joining forces, supporting one another and promoting each other, we can reach out to more people and all make beneficial and effective partnerships. In highlighting the crucial work of the VCSE sector, we can raise the profile of organisations and show everyone that it is possible to make a difference. We can

empower people to get involved, celebrate the brilliant things that we achieve every day and attract those essential resources of funding and volunteers.

The Spirit of Manchester Festival will demonstrate to everyone that we are still going strong, and that the VCSE sector will keep on going, despite difficulties and cuts. In this time of uncertainty, it is vital that we demonstrate to stakeholders, local people and to ourselves, just how vibrant and essential this sector is! The work we do directly changes people's lives; whilst vulnerable people are becoming ever more at risk, we need to work together, collaborate, share skills and encourage each other more than ever. We need to spread our community spirit as far as we can to reach as many people as possible.

By working together to provide a brilliant Festival, we gain a bigger voice on a bigger platform and show people the difference that we're collectively making within the community. We hope you decide to come and get involved!

For more information contact Adele on 0161 834 9823 or email: adelep@macc.org.uk. You can get in touch with us and help spread the word about the Spirit of Manchester programme through our social media pages:

Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/1S5dtU2>

Twitter: @McrCommCentral

#SpiritofMcr16

Spirit of Manchester 2016



Spirit of Manchester Awards 2016

With October fast approaching, we thought we should give you an update with where we are up to with Spirit of Manchester preparations.

On 14 June we held an exclusive drinks reception in Manchester's Northern Quarter, where we invited business representatives to come and have a look at what the Spirit of Manchester is all about and how they can get involved. We also exclusively announced the shortlist for the Awards, officially for the first time. The evening was a big success.



Congratulations to all those who were shortlisted for the Spirit of Manchester Awards. If you haven't already seen the list of shortlisted nominees you can find the shortlist on our website here:

<http://bit.ly/1pBelw6>

We can now announce that the Spirit of Manchester Awards Ceremony will be held at The Sheridan Suite on Thursday 6 October 2016, including interactive voting, entertainment from Cleo from Cleopatra and a raffle.

THE SHERIDAN

Tickets are now available to buy to attend the Awards Ceremony, tickets are £25 each and £200 for a table of 10 people.

For tickets, email Michelle at: michelle@macc.org.uk



Chief Executive's update

Where to start? In our last newsletter in May I talked about “volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity” and how “the big opportunity in Devolution is the space it creates for doing things better and differently.” At the time, I was coming at it from the point of view that Devolution was a huge wodge of uncertainty for the sector but we should look to see the opportunities it brings.

A matter of weeks later... Devolution now feels more like the lifeboat.

Since the Referendum result was announced, we have seen turmoil and infighting in our political leadership (on all sides), a rise in outright, undisguised racism, dire warnings about the impact on the economy and a general level of uncertainty about the future the like of which many of us have never seen before on this scale (though for some the last-recession-but-one never really ended). We don't yet know how to find our way around in this new reality. I can't help be reminded of those old disaster movies where people are unexpectedly trapped together, desperate to find a way out and all the worst sides of humanity gradually start to show, as fear and panic cause people to turn on each other.

This is when the skills of our sector are needed most. I think we need to look all these uncertainties and complexities in the eye if we're going to do anything about them. I wouldn't pretend to have the answers but these are some of the questions I've come up with in recent days:

We know that voluntary and community action at its best brings people together – across boundaries of place, culture, identity. Our organisations can support individual people to get what they need but we also have a wider role to challenge and inspire others to share the responsibility for inclusion: we have to work for change as well as support individuals. If our sector has a common aim, it is eradicating inequality. So if the referendum result was even partly driven by a protest vote against economic exclusion, what can we in our individual organisations do about that?



Chief Executive's update

We know that the funding environment is about to get tougher still: Brexit is likely to hit the economy hard very soon which will most likely lead, for one thing, to further pressure on public sector bodies to reduce spending on top of years of 'austerity'. We must again demonstrate that cutting the VCSE sector is generally a false economy – particularly when, after years of budget cuts and increased demand, we have all but used up our reserves: financial, physical and energy. What are the radical options we've not looked at so far? Do we need more mergers, more partnerships? Or something else?

The VCSE sector is a significant employer: what can we do differently in the way we support and value our workforce (paid and voluntary)?

We know that EU funding will gradually disappear from our sector. So we need to make the case for it to be replaced with national, regional and local mechanisms and preferably better ones than ESF and ERDF sometimes were. If we were asked what should replace EU funding, what would we say?

Other sectors will also be hit hard by this: the academic sector, housing providers as well as the wider business community. So let's build our relationships with them and see what we can achieve by working together. The alternative is to waste precious time and energy in the process of competing. So what would that look like?

Above all, if our communities are divided, what is our role in bringing people together? How do we help foster conversations across communities, generations and cultures about what the future should look like?

And so how can we help make Devolution become the vehicle to all this? Perhaps it's not what Devolution was originally about, but if it does create that space to think differently, maybe it's the best opportunity we have in Greater Manchester to find a way forward. I think we have to make this work.

Mike Wild, Chief Executive

Volunteering news

Tweeting, posting, friend-ing, liking, favourit-ing, sharing... ...Volunteer Centre Manchester and Social Media

Social Media websites and applications enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.

Volunteer Centre Manchester uses social media to get more people involved in volunteering and social action; to develop relationships, share stories and generally make things easier where lots of things are concerned!



We also use social media to promote volunteering opportunities and other relevant events and activities in Manchester.

If you have something you'd like the volunteer centre to share on social media contact us on **0161 830 4770** or email info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk

You can also find us on a number of different platforms including:

Facebook www.facebook.com/VCMOfficial

Twitter @VolunteeringMCR or by using #HeyVCM

You can access lots of useful web-based tools – some powered by social media from Community How To at: www.communityhowto.com.

Suns Out! Volunteer in Manchester this Summer!

Throughout the year, Manchester is host to a wide range of events, activities and celebration – things like Manchester Day, a Jazz Festival and a Mega Mela to name just a few.

This busy calendar simply could not be realised without the help of hundreds – if not thousands of volunteers who give their time freely to support these occasions – partially or entirely; everything from handing out maps to sharing information to wishing people well and being involved in the festivities themselves.

Why not lend a hand in summer 2016?





There is lots you can do:



Manchester Pride – Big Weekend Volunteers

Join an army of Pride Stars and volunteer for this year's The Big Weekend. There's a whole host of roles available for you to get your teeth stuck in to from Parade Marshals and Fundraisers to Merchandise and Wristband Exchange crew. There's also a number of perks to being a Pride Star, including free entry to The Big Weekend, Pride Star T-Shirts, volunteer socials and much, much more. To volunteer, visit:

<https://bigweekend.manchesterpride.com/take-part>

Manchester Games and MCR VIP



The MCRVIP identifies and deploys volunteers to support sport, physical activity and events across Manchester. To volunteer, visit: <http://mcrvip.com/>, or contact 0161 234 1136



Join the Feedback Global Gleaning Network

The Gleaning Network coordinates volunteers, farmers and food redistribution charities to salvage the thousands of tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables that are wasted on farms every year across the UK and Europe, and direct this fresh, nutritious food to people in need. To volunteer, visit:

www.feedbackglobal.org/campaigns/gleaning-network



Victoria Baths – Summer Events Assistant Volunteers

Victoria Baths is the setting for a range of exciting events throughout the year, and there are lots of different ways to get involved. Whether you love the idea of volunteering at their busy public Open Days, or

would like to help with building maintenance, administration or other behind the scenes tasks, they have a volunteer role to interest you. To volunteer, visit:

www.victoriabaths.org.uk/support-us/volunteering, or contact 0161 224 2020

For more information about volunteering during summer 2016, contact us on 0161 830 4770, or email: info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk

Hello from Focus Insolvency Group!



Hi, my name's Natalie Hughes, and I'm a licensed Insolvency Practitioner at Focus Insolvency Group. We provide advice to businesses and individuals that may be experiencing financial difficulties.

Many people hear the word insolvency and think that we are here purely to close down companies. This is not the case, we also specialise in business turnaround; we can help individuals and businesses who may be on the path to insolvency, take control of their debt and continue onto a brighter future.

Focus Insolvency Group has recently started an exciting new partnership with Macc's Capacity Building Team. We will shortly be setting up some **advice clinics** at Macc's offices to offer **free and impartial advice** to anybody that feels they are struggling in the current economic climate.

Given that we help companies with financial difficulties every day, Macc have asked us to put together our top five tips to help you stay on track.

One – Your working capital is not the same as your overdraft limit

Whilst using your prearranged overdraft can be a useful facility to help keep your cash-flow running smoothly, if you find your bank account is permanently in the red, you need to make sure you act. Particularly if you are constantly hovering near your overdraft limit, this is a sure fire sign that your finances are not going to plan.

Two – Learn when to say no

You may be a community support group, but you're not a charity case. Saying no can be incredibly hard, but letting someone down after you can't deliver on your promise is even worse. Only commit to projects if your organisation can give 100% to that project and can afford to do so.

Three – Don't fall behind with HMRC payments

Whilst HMRC can sometimes be a surprisingly forgiving bunch about the odd delay here and there, they can also have a very nasty sting in their tail. If you find yourself regularly falling behind with HMRC filing requirements or payments, this can be a strong warning sign that your organisation's finances need some deeper investigation.



Four – Take action if you notice high volunteer or staff turnover

There can be a multitude of reasons members of your team decide to leave, and it's often due to personal reasons beyond your control.

However, if you do find yourself to have an increasing employee turnover, or key members of your team are all suddenly leaving, you need to consider if there is anything within your organisation which could be causing an issue.

Regular one-to-ones or private informal chats are the best way to find out how your colleagues really feel. You might also want to consider holding an 'exit interview' with any teammates that are leaving – you will certainly get some honest feedback!



Five – Be proactive rather than reactive; prepare a cash-flow forecast

Try to prepare a cash-flow forecast for the next month, the month after that, and for in three months' time. It should be based on your prediction of which funds you will receive on time, who will pay up early and who often pays you late; over time, you will easily be able to

spot who the repeat offenders are likely to be!

By forecasting ahead, you will have time to prepare if it looks like you may struggle for cash in a few months' time. If you'd like some further information, take a look at our blog post on cash-flow forecasts: <http://bit.ly/2aJ1WL9>

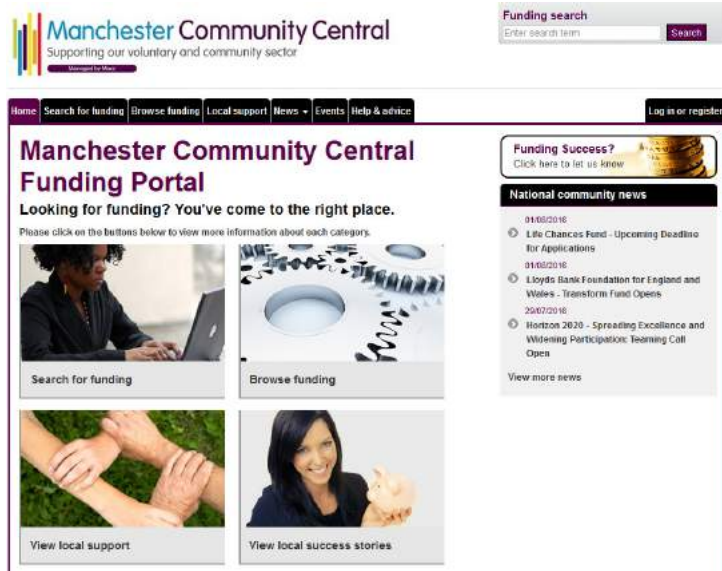
Given the economic uncertainty at the moment, especially after the recent 'Brexit' vote, we would strongly recommend that all businesses take professional advice where needed and our message is that we are 'Here to Help'.

We are happy to assist you with preparing cash-flow forecasts, updating your business plans or performing thorough reviews of any company experiencing financial difficulties.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01257 257 033 or email me at: n.hughes@focusinsolvencygroup.co.uk if I can be of any assistance.



“Help - I need funding and I don’t know where to start”



Yes, it has all of the more frequently heard of funding streams which include Big Lottery Fund, Comic Relief, Children in Need, Esmee Fairbairn to name a few but it also lists some of the lesser known funds that may just be relevant for what you are looking for.

Previous attendees to the workshops have commented that they feel better equipped to run searches and are more confident in refining the results to their needs rather than trawling through hundreds of results that don’t have any relevance to their organisation or project idea.

A common question that the capacity building team are asked on a daily basis and the answer remains the same – have you tried using the funding portal.

Since 2010 we have hosted the Manchester Community Central Funding Portal on our website simply because there is no way that any of the team can possibly know every fund that is out there, what the details of that fund are or indeed when the closing date is for applications so having a free portal which gives us all this information plus more is a relief.

Through our workshop we have supported nearly 100 organisations to make the most out of using the portal with the majority of the attendees running searches, identifying suitable funders and applying for funds that they may never have heard of before.

As a team we always say planning is essential, funding is never easy to get, it takes a lot of time and resources. Unfortunately it is ever more increasingly competitive to achieve so organisations need to always be thinking ahead of where to go next for funds – you should never stop looking.

The next Funding Your Project workshop which looks at using the funding portal and offers basic tips on making a funding application will be on **22 September 2016, 10am – 12.30pm**. This workshop is recommended for anyone new to funding and / or making applications.

For further information or to book visit: <http://bit.ly/29krTiq>

Training news

Training Programme



Training programme
July to September 2016



Our new training programme listing our workshops until the end of September is now available online:

<http://bit.ly/2aowGyv>

The programme highlights all the training available from the Policy and Influence, Capacity Building and Volunteer Centre Manchester teams. We are looking to build on the offer of workshops working with the results of the latest Training Needs Analysis with the programme reviewed on a quarterly basis.

If you are interested in attending any of the workshops links to further details and the online booking page are included in the programme as well as being listed on the training calendar: <http://bit.ly/1HYegzR>

Training Brochure



Training brochure



In addition to the programme we have also developed a training brochure: <http://bit.ly/2aewSmQ> which highlights the workshops available through Macc which can be delivered in-house to your organisation. We realise that it is often more cost effective to commission training if you have a number of people looking for the same training. The benefit of in-house training allows the session to be tailored to your needs, can take place on your premises

and is run at a date and time that suits you.

Both the training brochure and programme have been emailed to those who have expressed an interest in keeping updated with training related news. If you would like to be added to the email distribution list please drop me an email at:

cheryl@macc.org.uk

Changes are coming.....

Watch out for changes to the training pages of the website over the next few months – we have decided to revamp the pages, added functions such as a dedicated training search button and tags to look for specific training workshops.

As ever if you would like to discuss your training needs please do get in touch on 0333 321 3021, or email: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org

Light

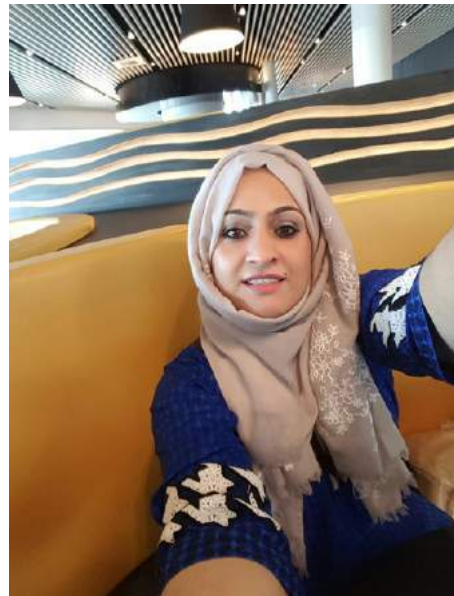


Light featured as a case study in our newsletter in 2015. They received support then to develop more formally as a group and to explore which aims and objects were important to them to achieve.

Two members of the group attended Macc's Trustee Roles and Responsibilities training which helped them understand what it means to be a trustee of a charity and to be aware of their responsibilities.

Since then, Light has received further bespoke one-to-one support from Macc on governance and funding. They are now being supported to register as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) following a successful application to Awards for All to run a programme of community advice and awareness sessions in Longsight and Levenshulme.

This will be through an information advice and guidance drop in three days a week and a community event monthly.



"I could not have done this without Macc! You have helped us achieve so much in such a short time. Thank you so much."
Hameeda Khan

Manchester's groups

Fabulous Fan Fayre (F3) – Not for Profit Programme

In times of adversity, organisations need to look at alternative options for raising income to sustain themselves.

Since February 2016, Macc has worked with the team at F3 to run information events to help raise awareness of a unique initiative available to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations to generate unrestricted funding.

The F3 Not for Profit programme at Manchester City Football Club are looking to work with VCSE organisations to run as many of their 85 kiosks as possible.

There are two types of kiosks (food and beer) with a percentage of the profits generated by each kiosk paid directly back to the group. Additional incentives are offered to boost the amount of income the VCSE organisation can raise.

During the last financial year charities engaged in the scheme have taken a share of £60,000. This season F3 are looking for more VCSE organisations to get involved.

Charities and voluntary organisations currently running the kiosks comment that the F3 initiative has offered the opportunity to have sustainable, regular income which in turn has offered security for their projects.

The volunteers who run the kiosks on behalf of the charities are gaining experience, skills and knowledge as well as boosting their confidence which they will take forward in their careers.

Having attended the information events ourselves I think that it is fair to say that it isn't for everyone. There is a commitment needed in terms of organising and staffing the kiosks week in week out for a full football season inclusive of additional events such as concerts.

Each kiosk needs to have a minimum of five volunteers working for approximately five hours **however** having spoken to the organisations already working in the kiosks they say that the benefits outweigh the hard work.

If you are interested in finding out more about the F3 initiative please email Cheryl at: cheryl@macc.org.uk or visit: www.fthree.co.uk/about-us/csr/charity-work/

fabulous
FANFAYRE



Policy and Influence news

Policy and Influence at Macc - Informing, engaging, and connecting Manchester's voluntary and community sector to encourage creativity and bring about positive change



Mike Wild, Chief Executive

Health and Social Care

A lot of time over the last few months has been spent working out where and how to engage with the programme to integrate Health and Social Care (see 'One Team' featured on page 18 in this newsletter). I continue to be involved on the Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board where much of this is decided.

Obviously there are lots of discussions and work behind the scenes before decisions are put to the Board but you can keep track of the Board papers and meetings (and even watch them via webcast) on the Council website here:

www.manchester.gov.uk/meetings/committee/77/health_and_wellbeing_board

Children and Families

Our Children Young People and Families Leaders Group continues to have regular meetings with the Director of Children's Services to develop the relationship the sector has with these important public services. As you'll see from Pauline's update, on page 16, we're about to start a new piece of work focusing on the 'Early Help' agenda to explore what the sector can do to support families in a period of crisis.

Safeguarding

As a VCSE sector representative on both the Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards, I regularly emphasise the role our organisations play in protecting people from harm and supporting people who've experienced harm. A priority at the moment is getting good, clear guidance, training and support for groups to improve their safeguarding practice. I'm working with Lynne Stafford, CEO at Gaddum Centre, who chairs a shared Communications subgroup of the two Boards to emphasise the needs of small local VCSE organisations in maintaining good practice.



Claire Tomkinson – Wellbeing Development Lead (Policy and Influence Team Leader)

It's been an exciting few months at Macc and it has been interesting to see the team grow and develop in response to the changing landscape and new opportunities for the sector. I'm specifically interested in community asset based approaches and how we can do more to recognise that people living in Manchester are our biggest assets with skills and talents that are often undervalued. I live in East Manchester so I'm looking forward to seeing how Our Manchester, the City Councils new approach to working with people and communities has an impact on local people and organisations.

I'm also doing a piece of work with our NHS colleagues in South Manchester to look at system leadership and how we can collaborate across sectors to find better solutions to collective issues while changing the relationship that we have with people that use services.



Nigel Rose, Strategic Lead Commissioning

Macc is working with Manchester City Council to organise a set of three workshops over the summer between VCSE organisations and commissioners that will discuss the idea of a 'Single Pot' - the combining of a number of Manchester City Council grants into one.

I attended the first joint working group to develop the 'Our Manchester' approach which was led by Sara Todd, Deputy Chief Executive of Manchester City Council. It's still early days and there is a lot of work to be done in turning the approach into action.

I also delivered a set of three workshops for youth organisations across the city to assist them in thinking about how they build partnerships that can collectively bid for grants and contracts.

Policy and Influence news

Policy and Influence at Macc - Informing, engaging, and connecting Manchester's voluntary and community sector to encourage creativity and bring about positive change



Allison Foreman, User Involvement Worker

Looking back on my first six months at Macc I've learnt so much from the groups I've worked with. Whilst they've faced difficult challenges the groups have also made some really impressive achievements: the Manchester Mental Health Charter Alliance has dedicated so much time and commitment to their peer-to-peer research project which will inform the planning of crisis care services; the Ambition for Ageing Older People's Network has been exploring issues affecting older people and developing plans to influence age friendly strategies.

Looking ahead, I'm pleased to be taking forward Macc's commitment to the GM Poverty Action Group by supporting their campaign to address and challenge poverty. For more details about the campaign, visit: www.gmpovertyaction.org.

To hear more about the work of these groups please get in touch with me on 0161 834 9823, or email me at: allison@macc.org.uk



Pauline Clark, Early Help Development Worker

My name is Pauline Clark and I have just been appointed as the Early Help Development Worker at Macc. This is a brand new role, although I have been a member of the Macc team for a few years now. Should you have any questions around Early Help work with children and families please contact me on 0161 834 9823, or email me at: pauline@macc.org.uk

Manchester City Council has set up a register of young carers – this is being compiled as the local authority has a statutory duty to help improve the lives and achievements of young carers. If you are working with children and young people who are carers you should contact the Early Help Hub in your area to have them added to the register.

Early Help Hub North – 0161 234 1973

Early Help Hub Central – 0161 234 1975

Early Help Hub South – 0161 234 1977



Jingyi Luo, on placement from the University of Manchester

I'm a student doing a master's in business analysis and strategic management and will be at Macc for 10 weeks.

We are currently supporting the GM Social Sharing Platform, which aims to make better use of the under-used assets and resources in local community and businesses by developing a system that enables these to be distributed in an equal and fair way. I hope that I can use my area of interest in sharing and discover a more inclusive Manchester.

The platform will facilitate and encourage volunteering, recognise people's contribution to the community, support local organisations, connect local businesses and increase mutual support between the VCSE sector and local businesses.

Macc has been working with representatives from different sectors to develop the scheme, thereby consolidating the existing connections and discovering new opportunities.

Alys Nicholls, intern from the University of Manchester

For eight weeks over summer I will be joining Macc from the University of Manchester where I study Politics and International Relations. During my internship I am analysing the data archive of the Volunteer Centre Manchester to see if I can pull out any useful information about volunteers and voluntary organisations and present it in a more visual way to make the data more understandable.

With the development of 360Giving, I am using the software to explore patterns of grant giving in Manchester which will enable Macc to see the funding patterns of certain donors and of successful bids.

Additionally, I am planning the Day in the Life of Manchester's VCSE sector survey and the subsequent marketing campaign that will be used in the run-up to the Spirit of Manchester Awards to improve the awareness of the impact of the sector on the lives of the people of Manchester.

Policy and Influence news

One Team

This is Manchester's approach to bringing health and social care together to deliver an integrated service in 12 neighbourhoods across the city. All Manchester's health and care providers are working together to establish an integrated health and social care hub in each of these areas. Each will have a neighbourhood team comprising active case managers, district nurses and social workers (among others) who will work closely with GPs and share information to ensure that their patients' needs are fully met. The principle is that working as 'One Team' services will collaborate to coordinate every aspect of each person's care, reducing the need for multiple appointments and reducing hospital admissions by providing a wider range of services in the community.

This is a key part of the Manchester 'Locality Plan' which is the city's plan for its part in GM Health and Social Care Devolution. There are three core elements in this plan:

Single Commissioning System – health (NHS) and social care (Council) commissioners will combine to form a single commissioner who will put in place all health, social care and wellbeing services in the city. Macc has been invited to participate on behalf of the sector in the new Joint Commissioning Board which will oversee this. No meetings have taken place at the time of writing so we will be giving updates on this in future.

Single Hospital Service – it's expected that all three Manchester hospitals will be joined together under a single contract issued by the joint commissioner. They will come under one new NHS Trust with Central and South Manchester joining forces first while North Manchester will come on board later (as it is currently part of the Pennine Acute Trust). The aim is that this will enable managers to put in place greater consistency in standards of hospital services. A funding bid has been put into Greater Manchester to support this transformation (the single largest move in NHS history!) and invest in maintaining services while the changes are implemented. We've been emphasising that this new organisation must also adopt a new culture of engaging local people in a different way by adopting the 'Six Principles' model: www.nationalvoices.org.uk/node/1116

A 'Local Care Organisation' – this will be a new entity which will bring together all the out of hospital, community and social care services and provide the vehicle for the One Team approach to be implemented. Macc is working with the Manchester Provider Board to discuss how the sector can engage with this new organisation. This is a new idea and at a very early stage but it will clearly be important for the LCO to work with the VCSE sector at neighbourhood level and, of course, to be aware of the needs of communities which are not place based: communities of identity / interest / experience.



Our Manchester

You will be hearing a lot more about the new 'Our Manchester' approach if you haven't already. It was the main topic at our last Voluntary Sector Assembly event in June.

The ambition for this is to build a new way of working which is 'asset-based'. If this sounds a bit vague and theoretical at present that's a good thing for once: the approach and ideas are still emerging from conversations and the VCSE sector is an important part of that. We will be exploring this at future meetings and Voluntary Sector Assembly events.

In the meantime, it is worth looking at the new 'Our Manchester Strategy' – this is the new updated 10-year Community Strategy for Manchester, replacing the 2005-2015 document 'The Manchester Way'.

This was developed by the **Manchester Leaders Forum** (now renamed the 'Our Manchester Forum') which brings together leaders from all kinds of organisations in the city:

- Public bodies such as the Council, NHS and policy
- Private businesses (including the Chamber of Commerce)
- The Culture sector
- Universities
- Housing associations
- Faith organisations

- The VCSE sector (represented by Mike Wild from Macc alongside Paul Martin from LGBT Foundation, Priscilla Nkwenti from BHA and Michele Scattergood from Breakthrough UK)

Those with long memories may recall old Manchester Partnership – this is what it looks like now. You can read more about it here:

www.manchesterpartnership.org.uk

The new strategy has a number of key themes:

- A thriving and sustainable city
- A highly skilled city
- A progressive and equitable city
- A liveable and low carbon city
- A connected city

You can read the strategy document and more about the ambitions under each of these themes at: <http://bit.ly/2aCGRhC>

Local news and events

Manchester branch of Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS)

The Manchester branch of SOBS has been in existence for over seven years and during that time it has helped many families from the area. The Manchester branch is part of a national charity which has 60 branches throughout the country.



The group meets the first Thursday of every month and everyone says it takes away the feeling of isolation experienced after the suicide of a loved one / friend / colleague etc.

The aim is to support each other at the time of the loss and in the months and years following. The Group Leader has herself suffered the loss of a loved one to suicide and can therefore understand the mental anguish experienced. A safe, confidential environment is provided for people to express themselves and it's non-judgemental.

For more information contact Mrs Toni Haymes on 0753 139 2674.

The Young Adult Carers Project

Did you know...volunteering pays off?
Research shows that people who volunteer have a higher chance of finding employment later on.

Are you a carer aged 16-25 and living in Manchester?

Why volunteer?

- Build your confidence
- Make a difference
- Boost your CV
- Learn new and valuable skills
- Meet new friends
- Improve your chances of finding employment

The Young Adult Carers Project can help you through their volunteering groups and through volunteering opportunities like: Gardening; Fundraising for a charity; Farming; and Working in a charity shop.

The project can also help you find other volunteering placements and support you in the process and can help you with your CV and cover letter.

For more information, contact 0795 783 6058 or 0161 272 7270, or email: elisabeth@manchestercarers.org.uk Tuesday to Friday, 10am-4pm.



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

Manchester Young Adult Carers

Even though it's summer, there are still lots of fun and exciting things happening to put in your diaries.



Upcoming events for young adult carers at Manchester Carers Centre:

- Cinema Meet up on Wednesday 10 August
 - Fun in the Garden and BBQ on Wednesday 14 September
- Contact the Carers Centre if you want to book your place

And remember, if you have any questions, need any help or want somebody to talk to Manchester Carers Centre are here for you. They still offer 1-to-1 appointments over the phone or face-to-face sessions during the summer period.

Contact Manchester Carers Centre on 0795 783 6058 or 0161 272 7270 or email: Elisabeth@manchestercarers.org.uk Tuesday to Friday, 10am-4pm.

The Training and Skills Development Foundation

The Training and Skills Development Foundation aims to facilitate the advancement of education and the development of skills and encourage learning by delivering high-quality training to the voluntary and statutory sectors.



Minibus, Passenger Assistant and MPV Training

MiDAS - Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme - A nationally recognised training course for minibus drivers.

Passenger Assistant Training Scheme - PATS provides a nationally recognised standard of training to people whose role it is to provide care and assistance and support to passengers.

MiDAS - Car and MPV Training - MiDAS Car and MPV training provides the opportunity for organisations operating smaller vehicles, or voluntary car schemes, to deliver the same level of training to their drivers as MiDAS gives to minibus drivers, including regular refresher training.

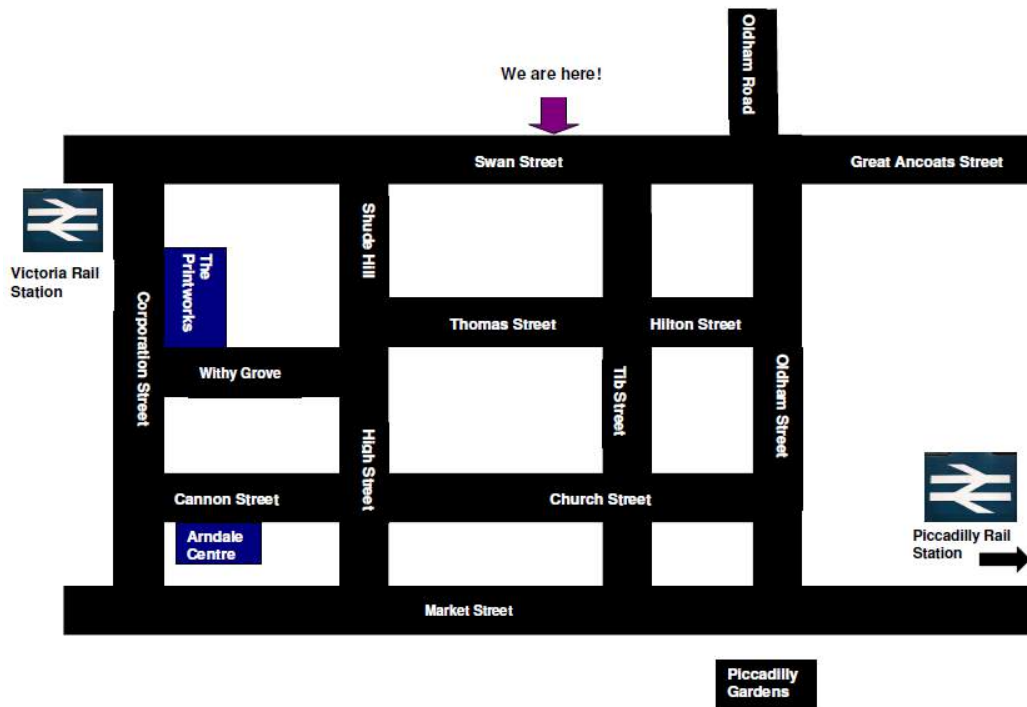
For more information and to book a place, contact 0794 670 4832, or email: admin@trainingandskillsdf.org

Get in touch



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Our funders:



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