Now open for nominations!

The Spirit of Manchester Awards celebrate and highlight all the excellent work being carried out in Manchester’s voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

Don’t miss the chance to highlight and celebrate all the work you do. Maybe you volunteer your time or you are part of a community group or you may be from a business that gives back to the community. Whatever it is this is your chance to showcase your work.

2018 Award Categories

- Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteering Team Award
- Employee Volunteering Award
- Volunteer Involving Organisation Award
- Service User Involving Organisation Award
- Inspiring Campaign Award
- Partnership and Collaboration Award
- Community Space Award
- Business Award
- Community Cohesion Award
- Equalities Award
- Health and Wellbeing Award
- The Dr Sylvia Sham Award for Contribution to the Sector

The deadline for nominations is: 30 April 2018 (midnight)
Our annual ‘Spirit of Manchester’ programme is a celebration of the work of thousands of voluntary organisations, community groups, charities and social enterprises in Manchester. We believe it’s important to recognise, support and encourage volunteers and local voluntary action.

This part of the programme consists of an annual **awards ceremony**. Our awards are now open for applications, so get your nominations in by 30 April 2018: [http://bit.ly/2qBCM4N](http://bit.ly/2qBCM4N)

**Spirit of Manchester Story** is an opportunity to demonstrate the outstanding work done every day by the VCSE sector across Manchester. Spirit of Manchester Story is a series of week-long campaigns, the first of which was held in September 2016, to document the extraordinary everyday stories of our sector. VCSE organisations were asked to choose one day during a week and record an activity which we captured via a short 10 minute phone interview on the day. We then publicised this information via our website and on social media. You can find previous stories on our website: [http://bit.ly/2E7pyYi](http://bit.ly/2E7pyYi)

**Spirit of Manchester Business** was launched last year, with the aim of strengthening the relationship between the VCSE sector and the private sector in Manchester. We hope to do this by matching businesses and charities up so they can work together by exchanging the skills, knowledge and resources they already have to benefit each other. Find out more here: [http://bit.ly/2BQx1p9](http://bit.ly/2BQx1p9) and to receive a copy of the brochure which tells you more about this initiative, please email: aneeqa@macc.org.uk

Every year the **Spirit of Manchester Festival** is growing and we need your participation! It is an annual city-wide celebration of the VCSE sector in Manchester and a fantastic opportunity to showcase the wide range of talent that is continuously shining through-out the sector. This year, we hope to bring a different spin on things which we hope will make a greater impact in the community. Keep an eye on our website: [http://bit.ly/2uEMW9R](http://bit.ly/2uEMW9R) and Twitter for updates and ways you can get involved.

We hope to make the Spirit of Manchester programme bigger and better this year, and to do this we need the sector to get involved! So whether its sharing a Spirit story, nominating a group, or holding a festival event – we want to hear from you!
Macc Membership

Macc Membership is free to join and there are two levels of membership **Affiliate and Full** see below for further details:

For **Affiliate** membership you just complete the online membership form nothing else is required. Membership benefits include discounted meeting room use, discounted training costs on our training programme and access to our funding portal search programme.

For **Full** membership you need to submit a copy of your latest audited accounts, a copy of your governing document (Constitution/Mem and Arts) and if you have one a copy of an annual report as well as completing the online membership form.

Membership benefits are discounted meeting room use, discounted training costs on our training programmes and access to the funding portal search programme. You are also entitled to attend our AGM and to vote at these meetings.

Visit our website for more information and to access the online membership form: [http://bit.ly/2s8HigX](http://bit.ly/2s8HigX)

Meeting room hire at Macc

We are based in Swan Buildings which is a fantastic city centre venue. We have excellent rooms available in different sizes to suit your needs at affordable rates.

We can provide refreshments, catering and all the equipment you require for your meetings. All of our rooms are light and airy and suitable for differing needs – from small meetings to training.

Our rooms are available to hire Monday to Friday from 9am – 4.30pm.

Visit our website for more information about our rooms: [http://bit.ly/2BWijgA](http://bit.ly/2BWijgA), or contact us via telephone on 0161 834 9823, or email us at: roombookings@macc.org.uk.
Active Communities

The Active Communities work of Macc emerged in late 2017.

In 2018, Active Communities will work to establish itself as a partner and enabler to the VCSE sector by building a collaborative strategic approach to volunteering, active citizenship and asset based community development; with the bottom line being getting more people doing more good and useful things in Manchester!

Several projects and services are now aligned under Active Communities, here’s an outline of what’s coming up in 2018:

Volunteer Centre Manchester

The volunteer centre will continue to support volunteer-involving organisations and people who want to volunteer in Manchester; by providing information, support, training and brokerage.

As part of the Our People: Volunteering programme (delivered in partnership with Manchester City Council), the volunteer centre will also encourage local authority employees to 'spend' their employer supported volunteering leave with Manchester-based charities and good causes; connecting them with local communities and bringing new skills and resources into the VCSE sector.

During Volunteers' Week (1 - 7 June 2018), the volunteer centre will lay on a programme that sees more people than ever getting involved in the celebration movement that recognises the contribution of volunteers.

Greater Manchester Older People’s Network (part of the Ambition for Ageing Programme)

The Greater Manchester Older People’s Network (GMOPN) aims to inform and influence Greater Manchester strategies that affect older people.

In the New Year the GMOPN will be looking to develop its influence by holding network events every quarter that focus on key themes; the first of which (Transport) was held on 17 January 2018, with speakers including Andy Burnham and representatives from Transport for Greater Manchester.

The GMOPN will also be expanding its core Action Group by recruiting members from areas across Greater Manchester which are currently under or not represented; and by developing creative opportunities for network members to participate in the work of the group through volunteering, digital technology and skills development.
Community Reporting

Community Reporting is about people having a voice and telling their stories.

In 2018, the Manchester Community Reporters network will continue to welcome new members to the storytelling movement through training and engagement. Moving forward, Community Reporter training will embrace the emerging models of Community Reporting for Insight, Co-production and Storytelling so that activity can be more useful and impactful than ever!

Opportunities to be involved and create content will be shared with the network throughout the year, such as an opportunity to produce content for the Spirit of Manchester Awards and Festival 2018. Community Reporting will also be featured and embedded into as much Active Communities work as possible.

Skill Givers

Skill Givers will be an exciting new addition to Active Communities in 2018; and will work across Manchester and Salford with National Lottery funding from Sport England to help local volunteers make a positive contribution to their community using sport and activity.

The Skill Givers project will link voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) groups who deliver physical/sport activities with local businesses. The project will enable employees within these business to effectively engage with the VCSE groups and donate their valuable skills and experience to help them to grow and prosper.

The project will be managed and delivered through the partnership of Macc and Salford CVS and will commence in early 2018.
Chief Executive’s update

Change can be painful. I think the voluntary community and social enterprise a sector is all about change. Most of our work is about trying to support people to deal with change – too much change, the wrong change, too little change, the fear of change, the uncertainty of change or simply knowing what and how to change. At the heart of all our organisations is a belief that we need change, be it at individual, community or even global level. It takes effort and struggle and sometimes it hurts.

The recent Our Manchester VCS Grants Fund is one of those examples. For organisations who weren’t funded, no amount of talk about the benefits of this new programme is going to make that feel any different. No process is ever perfect: mistakes are made, things are misunderstood. But the response has been right: there has been work done very quickly to recognise the issues this has raised and take steps to address them and understand the impact it’s going to have on communities.

After all, that’s the point: it’s not about our organisations, it’s about the difference, change we can make. In most respects, the programme has been a change for the better. Even the fact that there still is a VCS grants programme is something, after years of austerity, something we should celebrate.

I’ve also been thinking a lot about the impact of the recent national media stories about charities. The failures in these organisations seem to be to be about resistance to listening and changing. I sometimes think that, although all our work is about driving change, we often find it hard to pay attention to how change happens in our organisations and what we need to change in ourselves.

No doubt, some of this is because of a long history of having ‘change’ thrust upon us by the requirements of funders and decision makers (and key to the Our Manchester VCS Fund is how it will change the relationship in this respect) but it’s also important to keep evolving and adapting.
I think as organisations we should be questioning and exploring how we can improve the way we operate: how we engage partners, involve people, cherish our staff and volunteers and tell the story of the changes we’ve helped bring about. Our job is to have organisations which are good enough – no more, no less. We have to be part of the change we want to see.

Nominations are now open for the 2018 Spirit of Manchester Awards which are all about celebrating the people and groups who are trying to make change. Right from the start (and these are the 6th awards!! Where did the years go??) these Awards have been about celebrating the people in the organisations, the work they do *and* how they do it. And the Awards themselves have changed every year as we’ve wanted to recognise more things happening in communities: this year we’ve added in recognition for the role of businesses and around the important work our sector does on community cohesion. More details on that elsewhere.

Change can be painful but it is important to keep trying.

**Mike Wild, Chief Executive**
Greater Manchester Older People’s Network event
Are we getting there? Age-Friendly Transport across Greater Manchester

The Greater Manchester Older People’s Network held its most recent event focusing on Transport on 17 January.

Experts by experience, organisations and policy and strategy-makers came together to discuss the question, “Are we getting there? Age-friendly Transport across Greater Manchester”.

About 100 people attended the event, listened to presentations and had their say, putting across the main issues around transport for older people. Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, addressed the Network in the afternoon and took questions. This was followed by a panel discussion, based on questions that the Network had developed in the morning.

Key concerns were access for people with mobility issues, improving and investing in community transport, promoting available support and involving older people in future design and planning. One suggestion was training for drivers and transport providers given by older people themselves.

Susan Mottram, who attended the event as an expert by experience, commented that she was pleased to hear from Transport for Greater Manchester that: “Engineers are already being asked to redesign our buses to make them big enough to hold both buggies and wheelchairs at the same time”. She went on to state that: “This was an item that I particularly focused upon when voicing my opinion on the video relating to the event that was the forerunner to the special transport event”. She reflects the feedback of many of those attending when she states: “It is indeed possible for older people to be involved with decision making.”

Information from the event can be accessed on our website: http://bit.ly/2DRqIJU.

The next GM Older People’s event will be in April and will focus on themes relating to health and social care. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the Greater Manchester Older People’s Network please contact Liz Jones on 0161 834 9823 or email: liz@macc.org.uk.
**Skill Givers Employer Supported Volunteering Project**

Skill Givers will be an exciting new addition to Active Communities at Macc in 2018; and will work across Manchester and Salford with National Lottery funding from Sport England to help local volunteers make a positive contribution to their community using sport and activity.

The Skill Givers project will link voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) groups who deliver physical/sport activities with local businesses. The project will enable employees within these business to effectively engage with the VCSE groups and donate their valuable skills and experience to help them to grow and prosper. Through getting involved, ‘employee volunteers’ will also benefit by developing their own skills and confidence, and experience improved wellbeing.

The project will be managed and delivered through the partnership of Macc and Salford CVS and will commence in early 2018.

As a result of the three-year investment, an Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) IT platform will be developed that will make it easier for:

- People to beneficially engage in volunteering
- VCSE physical activity/sport groups to recruit volunteers for backroom (nonsporting) activity where there are often skills gaps
- VCSE physical activity/sport groups to identify areas of weakness/requiring development and through targeted recruitment bring in people with the skills to address these
- Businesses to record, measure and evidence their corporate social responsibility contribution
- Businesses to improve their employees morale, motivations and skills

For more details about the Skill Givers project, please contact **Jack Puller** on 0161 834 9823 or email: jack@macc.org.uk.
Fundraising is both an art and a science for the fundraiser and voluntary and community sectors of Manchester. This is because fundraising is both personal and challenging. It involves taking on challenges, making choices about social causes and prioritising other people’s monies and resources.

Indeed, many organisations seek funding and donations from a range of local, statutory and national agencies. All with different criteria’s and rationales for what they fund and what they will not fund.

Fundraising is therefore a competitive process which many individuals and organisation find full of barriers and risks.

For some voluntary and community organisations effective fundraising can be challenging. Others don’t simple know where to start.

This short article seeks to highlight five top tips:

1. **Fundraising is effective when it is SMART (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely)**

   In other words, fundraising works when it is planned and there are clear goals and targets.

   ![SMART Diagram](image)

2. **Fundraising is effective when it is outcome focused**

   This is because fundraising is relational. It involves the organisation, the fundraiser and the potential donor. This often involves the fundraiser/donor knowing what is needed; Why the fundraising / intervention approach is appropriate, when it is needed and how best to communicate to the donor / a wider audience the intended outcome.
3. **Fundraising is effective when it is purposeful**

I.e. the desired change / improvement can be seen by all parties including the organisations beneficiaries.

4. **Fundraising is effective when it is seen as a participatory and inclusive for all**

Allowing others to get involved. Fundraisers need to make sure they communicate these key values across their plans and proposals via their vision, mission, values, and aims. Showing the donors and potential funders, the benefits of their involvement and engagement.

5. **Fundraising is effective when it meets a range of individuals, organisations and societal needs**

Showing why a particular social cause matters i.e. the end of poverty is important and why the donor / funder should get involved.

**For further information, visit:**

Manchester Community Central:  
[www.manchestercommunitycentral.org](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org)

FSI:  
[www.thefsi.org](http://www.thefsi.org)

Charity Commission:  

NCVO:  
[www.ncvo.org.uk](http://www.ncvo.org.uk)
On a weekly basis we receive a number of enquiries from organisations looking for funding relevant to their project. Historically this would rely on a worker reverting back to a box of cards to research what funders were around, make contact to see if they had any money available and find out deadline dates / request application forms etc... Now all of this information is available on an easy to use funding search engine available in the members area of our website and best of all its free and can be used as many times as you want!

Manchester Community Central Funding Portal is our free funding search engine available to members of Macc who are based within the city of Manchester or members who can demonstrate that 50% or more of their beneficiaries come from the city of Manchester.

The portal is an online database containing funding opportunities available from Government, Lottery, charitable trust and other funds for organisations to search through listing them on a European, national, regional and local basis. Kept up to date by a team of researchers at IDOX you can be sure that the information listed on the portal is as accurate as it can be.

In addition to conducting searches the portal has the facility to save your results, generate reports and you can even be sent email alerts highlighting any changes to funders you have already identified.

If this is something that you think you would find useful then please get in touch with us on 0333 321 3021 to find out more. If you have previously registered to use the portal and forgotten your log in / membership details then no problem just give us a ring and we can sort that for you.

For information we regularly hold Funding Your Project workshops giving a demonstration on using the portal as well as running through the basics needed when applying for the funding. Details on when the next workshop will run can be found on the training calendar here: [http://bit.ly/1jVhL0x](http://bit.ly/1jVhL0x)

Further information on becoming a Macc member can be found by visiting: [http://bit.ly/1yCkBws](http://bit.ly/1yCkBws)

Don’t forget you can also sign up to receive the Funding Bulletin – email: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org to be added to the distribution list.
Burnage Activity and Information Hub is a warm and welcoming creative space at the centre of the community. The Hub is managed by Friends of Burnage Library and incorporates a contemporary library service alongside a range of learning, IT, cultural and volunteering opportunities, devised to meet local needs and to appeal to all ages and sections of the community.

Several trustees of FoBL are relatively new to both the voluntary sector and, more specifically, to the role of trustee and we had identified the need for basic bid writing training as essential to understanding and developing this key aspect within that role.

Our first point of contact, was Cheryl who liaised with us throughout the process to ensure that the training we received was exactly what we had requested and was tailored to meeting our organisational requirements. Stuart also contacted us to ensure that he could include anything in the session that we specifically requested. Post-training support, has also been spot-on with follow-up emails and the offer to act as a ‘critical friend’ when we submit a funding application and assistance with accessing The Macc Funding Portal.

- The session was well-structured and ‘flowed’ in a natural and logical way
- We were given an invaluable insight into the way a funder will look at and differentiate between different bids
- We were advised to research any funder prior to submitting a bid to see what kinds of projects they had funded in the past
- Practical steps and tips for writing any bid were given, such as ‘the 3 what’s and a why’ and the ‘golden thread’
- Useful, common-sense information was passed on which gave us a better appreciation of what it takes to submit a successful bid e.g. talk to the funder, if possible!
- We were encouraged to think creatively but also to reflect critically when writing a bid and to evaluate at each stage of the process
- We were advised not to re-use bids by tweaking here and there as funders do and will talk to each other (there’s no ‘one size fits all’ for applications)
- We felt encouraged, supported and motivated throughout the training session but we also welcomed the constructive critiquing in the simulation exercise!
- The training we received was: ‘relevant, practical, interesting and enjoyable and provided us with the opportunity to team-build using our individual strengths and shared commitment to achieving our organisational aims and objectives’. A fantastic, professional service from the staff at Macc!
Reach Out to the Community is a project which was set up by two people from Elliott’s Fruit and Veg shop in Chorlton Precinct. Over recent years, we have successfully provided support to rough sleepers, street beggars, the homeless and other vulnerable people in the area.

Having a base in the local area that is open six days a week has meant that this service is accessible and available for those people that need it.

We have gained the support of the local community and work very closely with Greater Manchester Police and Manchester City Council. The success of this project and the need for it has led to a point where Becky and Steph will be winding down the fruit and veg business and concentrating on the Reach Out to the Community Hub which opened up in July 2017. The hub helps us to raise funds to help sustain the project and is somewhere that local rough sleepers can go for support with access to benefits advice and computers.

We contacted Macc for some assistance and advice with our application for registering as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Our trustees had 3 meetings with a representative from Macc who offered some guidance with our application and also with replying to further questions from Charities Commissions. We were also advised about training sessions that Macc provide.

We are so grateful for the support that Macc gave and were happy to receive our Charity Status in December 2017.

The help and support I received from Macc was not only vital but empowering. We all learned so much and felt guided by Stuart from Macc in a friendly and informative way. Coming into this sector as a novice they made their time offered accessible and answered any questions no matter how silly I may have felt asking. I am extremely excited to hear Macc offer a Trustee Training Program which I hope to attend and now feel confident doing so due to my previous experience with Macc. Personally, I cannot thank them enough for their educated encouragement, patience and kind support.
**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**

**MEN Arena Attack Response**
I’ve not shared much about the work I’ve been involved in following the attack last May. After we did the immediate work on gathering information about the support available from the local sector for those affected (both directly and indirectly) by the attack, my focus has been on the longer term work about the impact on our communities and in particular the effect on ‘community cohesion’ or, more simply, how local people in the wonderfully diverse communities of Manchester get along with each other. It’s important to celebrate and support this and that’s why we’ve focused this year’s Spirit of Manchester Fund on activities around community cohesion. We’ve also introduced a new category in the Spirit of Manchester Awards recognising work on this topic.

I’m involved in work to learn the lessons from the response to the events of May last year both locally and at a national level (alongside the responses to events such as the Grenfell Tower fire and the attack on Finsbury Park Mosque). I hope to be able to share more on this over the summer.

**Local Care Organisation**
We’re staying involved with the development of the Manchester LCO. Michele Scattergood (Chief Exec of Breakthrough UK) has been seconded into the LCO Management Team to help them think through their relationship with the VCSE sector. We recently organised a lunch for various leaders from local VCSE sector organisations, hosted by the Chief Executive of the LCO Michael McCourt. From that Michele is now working with a small group to form a proposal for the sector’s involvement in the governance structures.
Nigel Rose, Strategic Lead Commissioning

In November I acted as the independent chair for the Our Manchester Grants. My role was to ensure that the decisions were robust and taken in exact accordance to the published prospectus and guidance. I didn’t read the applications or have a vote. I was very impressed by the amount of work and care and attention to detail by the panel in making decisions.

The next stage is due diligence and I ran a couple of workshops with liaison officers, who are carrying out the due diligence process and will be the long-term connection between Manchester City Council and each organisation. The workshops focused on how to approach the due diligence in line with the agreed process, how to record and make decisions, and most importantly of all, on the kind of mutually beneficial relationship that liaison officers should try and forge with the community and voluntary sector organisations.

A new area of work that I’ve been exploring over the last few months is Work and Skills and the contribution that the VCS has to make as an employer, in services to people looking for work and in contributing to an environment where businesses can develop. It’s still early stages but I’ve advised around Work Club funding, done workshops at the recent Work and Skills Conference, contributed to the Age Friendly Work and Skills Stream, continued working on Social Value and begun to make contact with voluntary and community sector organisations working in this field.

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

I’ve been busy following up some of the actions and ideas from our last Voluntary Sector Assembly which Helen outlines over the page. We’ve been lucky enough to build some brilliant relationships with a number of people within the NHS that really see the value of working closer with the VCSE sector and I’ve been doing a lot of work to raise awareness of the sector, not just as people who deliver services, but as key partners.

We’ll be doing some work over the next few months with the Integrated Discharge Manager at Wythenshawe Hospital to think about the role of the sector and the wider community in getting people back home quicker from a hospital stay and we’ll be working with the Community Partnerships Manager at Manchester Foundation Trust to change the culture of how hospital staff perceive and work with VCSE sector organisations. Some of this is about relationships, and some is about reallocating funding. All of it is about collaboration and sharing information.
Anna Tate, Policy and Influence Development Worker

Hate Crime Awareness week 2018 was held 5-11 February and Macc has been administering the second round of funding in behalf of the Manchester Community Safety Partnership.

27 Manchester groups and organisations have been funded recently and many groups from the summer funding round have been awarded money to hold events during Hate Crime Awareness week.

There is a real mix of events including young people radio workshops, women’s resilience projects, Disability Awareness events, LGBT awareness, schools’ projects working with parents, music and poetry workshops, cultural and religious awareness sessions and a human library and many many more. All of these events were free to attend and some closed to the public but for those open to all please attend as many as you can and show your support for the great work being done to challenge Hate Crime in Manchester.

Helen Walker, Policy and Influence Worker

Over 90 people attended Working with Hospitals – Opportunities and Challenges, the recent Manchester Voluntary Sector Assembly event. It was a really practical and positive afternoon which enabled VCSE organisations and representatives from the NHS and community health services to meet and discuss how they could work together in the future. There were also three presentations from existing projects showing this partnership working in action.

The message from health professionals was that they know the NHS does not have all the answers and that it is only by working with the voluntary sector that people can be fully supported, both in hospitals and in their own homes.

I have also been updating the Policy and Influence part of the Manchester Community Central website: http://bit.ly/1M7xYsH. It contains information on policy changes that affect people in Manchester along with key documents and the latest policy news.
Being There was founded in 1982 and its aim is to provide support for people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses such as strokes, heart and respiratory disease.

It is a Greater Manchester based charity including two offices covering Central, North and South Manchester, and provides emotional support and home-based practical help to people living with cancer and other life limiting illnesses, their carers and families. All services are delivered by trained volunteers who are managed by a team of professional staff.

Being There can offer emotional support, respite sitting, support for hospital appointments, social activities and other practical help. If you would like to know more about the service or volunteer, call 0845 123 2329, or visit: www.beingthere.org.uk

Suicide is not just the loss of one precious life - it devastates many other lives.

Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS) exists to help the people who are left behind after suicide or self-inflicted death. SOBS aims to support each other in the months and years following and is made up mainly of volunteers most of whom have lost someone to suicide and can understand what the bereaved person is experiencing.

SOBS wants you to know you are not alone, they offer a safe place for you to express your feelings and experiences and to seek help, everything said is in confidence. Contact 0753 139 2674 for help.

In February 2018 SOBS is celebrating nine years of being in Manchester.

Manchester Carers Forum runs a Peer Mentoring Service for family and friends of people with dementia. Peer Mentors offer a listening ear, friendship and support. Support comes mostly via the Telephone Support Line.

Carers can ring 0161 819 2226 and be connected to someone who will listen and talk them through the day-to-day challenges of being a carer. They will also help carers find answers to their questions, and signpost them to the many services and groups available to carers. The Peer Mentoring Service also offers home visits, either occasional or regular visits from the same Peer Mentor.
Women’s Voices: English Conversation

Starting on Monday 26 February, Women’s Voices are delivering sessions on English Conversation, come along to practice and learn English.

The sessions are free and everyone is welcome to attend. The sessions will run every Monday, 1.30pm-3pm at the Pakistani Community Centre (near Longsight Library), 481 Stockport Road, Manchester, M12 4NN.

Greater Manchester becomes UK's first age-friendly city region

The World Health Organization has recognised Greater Manchester as the UK’s first age-friendly city region. To mark the achievement, on 16 March 18 the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has launched his age-friendly strategy and joined GreaterSport to celebrate the securing of £1m funding from Sport England to encourage older people to be more physically and socially active.

Together the region will:
• Establish age-friendly communities across GM, promoting volunteering and bringing generations together
• Become a world leader in research and innovation for an ageing society
• Increase housing choice to promote social connections and wellbeing in later life
• Create opportunities to maximise skills and experience of older workers
• Build a health and social care system that works for older people
• Show leadership in developing age-friendly initiative at all levels and across all sectors
• Create a transport network that supports older people to stay connected and active
• Engage and involve older people in arts and cultural activities across GM and establish a Centre for age-friendly Culture – a world 1st
• Support more people to be physically active as they age
• Make sure access to entitlements and benefits is easier and simpler
• Develop an age-friendly plan for each local authority council
• Campaign for positive change in the way older people are viewed

MadLab: upcoming workshops and training opportunities

Manchester’s grassroots innovation hub MadLab has some great courses and training opportunities coming up. There’s bid writing, digital prototyping with Arduino and a WordPress workshop with WP co-founder Mike Little, amongst many others.

To find out more, and to book visit: www.madlab.org.uk/courses/
Get in touch

Manchester Community Central

Telephone information service:
0333 321 3021
Email:
info@mcrcommunitycentral.org
Web:
www.manchestercommunitycentral.org
Twitter: @McrCommCentral

Volunteer Centre Manchester

Telephone:
0161 830 4770
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info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk
Web:
www.volunteercentremanchester.co.uk
Twitter: @VolunteeringMcr

Our funders:

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

NHS

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

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