Supporting our Voluntary and Community Sector

Spirit of Manchester Awards 2018

The Spirit of Manchester Awards celebrate and highlight all the excellent work being carried out in Manchester’s voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. There are hundreds of charities and community groups all across the city and thousands of local people at work every day to support our communities.

We’re very happy to announce the winners of our Spirit of Manchester Awards 2018

Thank you to everyone who made a nomination and thank to our judges for deciding the shortlist. Thank you to everyone who joined in the celebration at our Awards Ceremony on 4 October. Finally thank you to all of our supporters.
Spirit of Manchester Awards 2018 Winners

Volunteer of the Year (supported by Wythenshawe Community Housing Group)
Winner: Laura Smethurst [click here to watch the film]
Shortlisted: Pauline Ainscough [click here to watch the film] and David Callicott [click here to watch the film]

Volunteer Involving Organisation of the Year
Winner: Home-start Manchester [click here to watch the film]
Shortlisted: Back on Track [click here to watch the film] and LGBT Foundation [click here to watch the film]

Volunteering Team of the Year
Winner: The Booth Centre [click here to watch the film]
Shortlisted: Get Help Give Help – Peer Support Groups [click here to watch the film] and Village Angels / Village Haven [click here to watch the film]

Employee Volunteering Award
Winner: University of Manchester’s School Governor Initiative [click here to watch the film]

Equalities Award
Winner: Manchester Deaf Centre [click here to watch the film]
Shortlisted: Back on Track [click here to watch the film] and Odd Arts [click here to watch the film]

Business Award (supported by LLoyds Banking Group)
Winner: Cracking Good Food [click here to watch the film]
Shortlisted: Savvy Guest [click here to watch the film] and Yipiyap Ltd [click here to watch the film]

Service User Involving Organisation (supported by the University of Manchester)
Winner: The Curve Leaving Care Service [click here to watch the film]
Shortlisted: Back on Track [click here to watch the film] and Manchester Deaf Centre [click here to watch the film]
Updates from us

Inspiring Campaign (supported by Manchester Local Care Organisation)
Winner: REIGN [click here to watch the film]
Shortlisted: Cracking Good Food [click here to watch the film] and Loneliness Connects Us - 42nd Street and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) supported by the Co-op Foundation [click here to watch the film]

Partnership and Collaboration Award (supported by Wythenshawe Community Housing Group)
Winner: Maya Project [click here to watch the film]
Shortlisted: Foodinate [click here to watch the film] and The Pankhurst Centre [click here to watch the film]

Health and Wellbeing Award (supported by Manchester Health and Care Commissioning)
Winner: Manchester Refugee Support Network [click here to watch the film]
Shortlisted: Abraham Moss Warriors at the Heart of the Community [click here to watch the film] and Our People, Our Place – Barlow Moor Community Association (Health and Wellbeing Zone [click here to watch the film]

Community Cohesion (supported by Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust)
Winner: Rainbow Surprise [click here to watch the film]
Nominated: All FM; Flourish Together CIC; Human Appeal and Manchester City of Sanctuary

Community Space
Winner: Westcroft Community Centre [click here to watch the film]
Nominated: Bridge 5 Mill; Communities for All Ltd; Coverdale and Newbank Community Association; Firmstart CIC; Heaven on Earth The Space; LGBT Foundation; Miners Community Arts and Music Centre; Northmoor Community Association and Welcome Centre Urban Farm Volunteers

Dr Sylvia Sham Award for Contribution to the Sector
Winner: Karen Brackenridge [click here to watch the film]
Mental Health Grants Programme 2017-2018

All of the 35 projects previously awarded a Mental Health Grant of up to £10,000 by Manchester Health and Care Commissioning have now finished their activities. The programme formally came to an end in October 2018.

Launched in 2016, the programme has aimed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of people with mental health problems. The programme’s grant holders have provided a huge range of support activities all around Manchester: http://bit.ly/2IjjlHp

A few months ago, each grant holder contributed a page to our Mental Health and Wellbeing in Manchester zine about the programme: http://bit.ly/2wETIPN

Recently, evaluators OPM provided an interim report about progress of the programme: http://bit.ly/2GeMlhH. OPM is to produce its final evaluation report by early 2019. It will be available on the grants programme webpage and announced in our ebulletin.

Before then, towards the end of this year, we will be inviting all grant holders and other stakeholders to a learning and celebration event that marks the end of the programme. Details will be available in the ebulletin nearer the time.

For further information, email: oliver@macc.org.uk
My Name is Tony, and I started working at Macc as Media Assistant back in July. This is the first newsletter article I’m writing, and there has already been a substantial amount of media work and projects that have been completed, so here’s a brief overview of some completed projects and recent developments.

Various materials were successfully made for the Spirit of Manchester Awards 2018 including; a number of graphics/social media images for the Spirit of Manchester Story Week, and an infographic with updated graphics and statistics relating to what Macc did in the previous year. I’ve also designed a logo/promotional materials for the new Sharing Our Wellness campaign, and by the time this is published Macc will have produced its first zine, with the theme of sharing things that we do and enjoy that helps to keep us well. Could this be the first of many?

Moving on to more recent work, and if you have seen the sharing wellness logo or infographics, you may have noticed that the characters featured in them look similar to those of the Volunteer Centre. I’ve been experimenting on refreshing the original character designs by presenting them in a slightly different style, and hopefully you’ll be seeing them a lot more in the future - they may even look a little more… animated.

Using feedback from the Greater Manchester Older People’s Network, I have also been working on redesigning their logo. Two final designs have been chosen, but the ultimate winner will be decided by a vote that is being shared through their latest newsletter.

Finally, as part of the Skill Givers project, I’ve been working with Hayley (Project Coordinator) to create some images that will work into an over-arching theme for their website and promotional materials. Some interesting ideas have come out of this already, and I’m looking forward to where it’ll end up.

On the subject of new personnel, we’ll also be meeting Victoria Jones later in these pages, who has recently joined Macc as Project Support Worker.
Skill Givers

The Skill Givers project is ready to launch!

After months of development, to ensure that the purpose built website is as user friendly as possible for everyone involved, the Skill Givers project is now ready to launch.

Skill Givers is a Sport England funded project in partnership with Macc and Salford CVS. The project will connect employers who offer their employees volunteering days, with local voluntary groups and community groups, charities and social enterprises who support their community to get active and would benefit from some short-term skilled support.

The project will focus on providing short-term opportunities (often 1 day) for individual employees to go and complete a task for a group that will really make a difference. This could be creating a spreadsheet that makes monthly reporting easier and saves the group time, designing a new logo, providing some management mentoring or supporting in one of many other ways to help build the capacity of the group.

Hayley, Project Coordinator for Skill Givers said: “We’ve had a lot of enthusiasm for the project from both employers and groups. It’s exciting to be able to start getting employees involved and out making a difference.”

If you are a group who would like to get involved in the project you can find out more information here: www.skillgivers.org.uk or follow us on twitter: @SkillGivers
Hello! I’m Victoria and I am going to be working at Macc for the next year as part of a graduate training programme called Charityworks. I work primarily on the facilitation of the Greater Manchester Older People’s Network as a Project Support Worker. So far, this means I’ve been involved in preparing the GMOPN monthly newsletter, managing our twitter page, assisting with the booking of events and meetings and attending training sessions and events with network members.

I recently attended the Ageing Better conference in Kent with Elaine, a member of the GMOPN Action Group. Elaine was invited to be a panellist on the ‘Artful Ageing’ panel and she talked about her experience as a Culture Champion in Manchester and the role that the arts can play in reducing social isolation.

We also recently had the opportunity to speak about the work of the GMOPN on Wythenshawe FM on the ‘Out to Lunch with Silver Seniors’ show. We are looking forward to going back to provide more updates about the work of the network in the future!

Members of the GMOPN have also been participating in other various interesting activities. Two members recently travelled to London to participate in the Lord’s Committee on Intergenerational Fairness and Provision. Jan and Elizabeth were invited to the House of Lords to speak about their experiences of housing, jobs, the workplace and the role of communities.

**GMOPN Celebration Event**

On 8 January 2019, the GMOPN will be holding its next event that will focus on celebrating the work that the network has already achieved, as well as looking to what the year ahead holds for the GMOPN. With the help of our GMOPN Event Planning Group, we are currently in the process of planning the event, and we are looking forward to kick-starting the New Year with some positivity. Watch this space!
Get your party hats on!

Christmas is upon us and Volunteer Centre Manchester wants you to join us at our special Christmas ‘Volunteer Meet Up’ on Tuesday 11 December (5.30pm – 7pm) at Macc, Swan Street. Click here to register

It’s been a very busy year for volunteering and we want to end the year with some celebration! There will be cake, biscuits, tea, coffee and great company, so why not join us for some festive fun?

If you don’t know what our ‘Volunteer Meet Ups’ are, here is a little bit more info:

Volunteer Centre Manchester hold Manchester Volunteer Meet Ups (MVMU) every 4-6 weeks and anyone can get involved. If you are new to volunteering, have volunteered in the past or are currently volunteering you can join us for a cup of tea, a cake or biscuit and get involved!

They provide a chance for people in the City of Manchester to come together; socialise, network, share experiences, learn about opportunities across the city, and get support.

The sessions usually take place on an evening, are really informal and take place in a safe and friendly environment.

If you would like to get involved or think you know someone who might, then contact us on 0161 830 4770 or email info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk and we’ll be more than happy to answer any of your questions.
We’re also ending the year with our Volunteer ‘Drop-In Surgery’ at The Rates Hall in Central Library. The drop-ins are an opportunity for those new to volunteering to find out a bit more about our work and how you can get involved with volunteering.

The sessions take place on the third Friday of every month and you can catch us next on **Friday 21 December (11am – 1pm)** for our final session of the year. Please pass on the info to anyone who you think is interested in volunteering as we’d love to help out.

*The Volunteer Centre Manchester Team*
I am interested in a community asset transfer – what do I need to know?

Well, funnily enough, there is a helpful guide from Macc called… yes, you’ve guessed it: ‘I am interested in a community asset transfer – what do I need to know’! You can find the guide on our recently revised website here: https://bit.ly/2Jx4YEb

Why has the guidance been written?

Community Asset Transfer, or ‘C.A.T.’ for short, is a popular support request from voluntary and community groups. Macc receives numerous requests from groups across the City interested in owning a building, looking for the right space or have spotted a potentially suitable building but are not sure what to do next. We have written the guide above to help groups understand more about C.A.T. and what they need to do.

Often, groups are not aware of the following about C.A.T. which it can be:

- Very time consuming: it takes lots of people power, resources, group development and it can take on average 1-2 years to complete
- Frustrating! Building availability is lower than the number of groups who show interest; plans for buildings can change quickly making them no longer available
- Not right for every organisation and, for some organisations, it can be even be the death knell!

Wait, don’t walk away yet! C.A.T. can be successful, inspiring and effective!

How is that achieved?

Through understanding, suitability and readiness:

- **understanding** asset transfer;
- making sure asset transfer is **suitable** for your organisation;
- ensuring you are **ready** for asset transfer:

How?

- Seek the right support (professional, legal, capacity building)
- Gather the right information (costs, needs, etc.)
- Plan
- Engage with the local community and the City Council

Read the guide, talk to the Capacity Building Team at Macc, check out the training available: http://bit.ly/2knJkoH.

Our Introduction to C.A.T. is a half day workshop and is a great starting place! For groups a little further on, we are delivering 2-day training in January/February so contact us if you have already attended the half day Intro to CAT workshop or are already working with a Macc Organisational Development Worker and have already started working towards asset transfer.
Our Manchester VCS Development Funding

Summary of support work from Macc

Last year Manchester City Council combined several of its voluntary and community sector funding streams into one large-scale grant giving process.

At the same time they adopted the Our Manchester approach to the grants process, requiring groups to demonstrate how they are adopting the Our Manchester principles in their organisations.

Following this process 63 groups were awarded funding, but 46 were not. Of these unsuccessful groups 16 had been funded previously by one of the five former funding strands.

Subsequently these 16 groups were given development funding for 12 months to enable them to produce an alternative development plan leading up to and beyond April 2019 onwards. The groups were also given the opportunity to work with Macc to produce this plan.

Macc’s approach to these groups was to make contact as soon as possible once the development funding had been put in place. Following this, a healthcheck was delivered with the trustees of the groups.

The results of the healthcheck were combined with feedback from the Our Manchester VCS panel and any general concerns of the trustees to develop a detailed Action Plan, and the groups will report to Manchester City Council on their progress against this Action Plan on a regular basis as part of their grant monitoring.

Phil James and Stuart Vaughan, the two Organisational Development Workers within the Capacity Building Team are delivering the work on behalf of Macc, and are working in close collaboration with Michael Salmon from Manchester City Council to ensure that the groups involved receive the best possible support as they prepare for life without the VCS funding.

The groups affected are adopting a variety of different strategies to their new futures, from looking at sourcing alternative funding and income generation to reconfiguring their legal structures or the services they deliver.
Calling for expressions of interest – Emergency First Aid at Work

- Are you or your staff / volunteers needing first aid training?
- Do you need a refresher / re-qualification?

Here at Macc we are looking to arrange a self-funding Emergency First Aid at Work (one day) training session in late January 2019 and will have nine places available for members of VCSE organisations based within the city of Manchester.

Certified by The First Aid Industry Body (FAIB) who are accredited through UKAS this training is suitable for employees or volunteers given the role of Emergency First Aider.

Participants will be given a certificate valid for three years.

For further information on what is covered in the training please visit: [https://bit.ly/2Fam6xO](https://bit.ly/2Fam6xO)

How it will work?
The nine places available work out at **£40 per person** however this would need nine people to confirm and pay. If only a few people confirm then the cost will increase so ideally we want to maximise the numbers and get the course full.

If you are interested in accessing this training please email us: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org as soon as possible.

Places will be offered on a first come first served places and once confirmed will need to be paid up-front. Details regarding payment will be arranged at a later date.

Training Coming Up in December

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Email: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org
Tel: 0333 321 3021
The Widows Empowerment Trust is a diverse organisation tackling loneliness and isolation facing widows and widowers. Founded in 2017 the Trust was formed with a goal of empowering widows, promote social inclusion and to fight isolation.

The Trust runs a variety of activities such as wellbeing sessions every Tuesday and Thursday, pampering sessions, befriending / home visits, meals out / day trips, celebrations and a food bank.

Members of the organisation have recently accessed a variety of training workshops through Macc such as Public Speaking, Book-keeping and Demonstrating Your Impact which has assisted them in being able to train more of their volunteers and put structures in place.

When asked how the training has helped their organisation members stated that a lot has changed particularly with the book-keeping as it wasn’t organised professionally however since taking part in the training they have a better understanding on structuring their accounts and keeping on top of their spreadsheet on a day to day basis. They picked up tips in how to better record and save their data to help keep track.

With the Public Speaking this workshop gave them confidence in being very precise and concise when speaking and information on structuring presentations.

The group quoted: “Am glad I attend the training. Now we can work better”

Macc offers a variety of workshops and co-ordinates existing training opportunities across the city of Manchester. For further information on what training is coming up visit: https://bit.ly/2fnhWpb

If you would like to discuss your training needs then please contact the Training Co-ordinator Cheryl on 0333 321 3021, or email: training@mcrcommunitycentral.org
**Nigel Rose, Strategic Lead Commissioning**

**Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INT)**

The 12 INTs, which bring together statutory health and social care provision, are slowly being put in place. I’ve spent a considerable amount of time helping to ensure that key posts are filled by people who understand and can work with small voluntary sector organisations. I have just finished being part of an interview panel for Neighbourhood Leads (the senior co-ordinating post in each neighbourhood) and a couple of months ago I was involved in recruiting Health Development Co-ordinators for Central and South.

The Community Development Work Practice Group, of which I’m part, held a great conference on community development work in Levenshulme. Really interesting set of workshops, great food and lots of interaction, networking and fun.

Gorton Hub is a proposed new development in Gorton that will house various statutory services. In order to promote a more community-connected approach, I arranged an introduction for some of the leads to Victoria Armstrong, Chief Executive of the Oasis Project. They were hugely impressed by the quality and quantity of work going on there and understood its relevance for their planning approach.
Chelsea Murphy, Health and Care Development Worker

I have recently joined the Policy and Influence Team on a part-time basis. For the last three months I’ve been settling into my role and promoting conversations between the voluntary sector and the health and social care sector.

I come to Macc as a Community Psychologist and Researcher with a history of participatory working with VCSE organisations, (specifically LGBT and women’s communities), to promote the role of the third sector. I think about health and care from a critical stance that considers social determinants of health and health inequalities.

I’m currently leading on our Sharing Wellness campaign to gather positive ideas about maintaining mental health across the city. I am also investigating the VCSE sector’s creative contributions to health and wellbeing to feed into future strategy – do get in touch if you are using arts to promote wellbeing, email: chelsea@macc.org.uk

Helen Walker, Policy and Influence Worker

I recently organised the latest Manchester Voluntary Sector Assembly entitled ‘How can we use digital communications?’ There were over 40 people present and the event looked at the latest developments in digital technology which the voluntary sector should be aware of.

There were also workshops on fundraising, stories, marketing and Twitter/Facebook that enabled people to learn more and swap their hints and tips. The event was well received and we are looking at what we can do to support people further with digital.

I am currently writing a summary of the history of Macc and our predecessors. Next year, it will be 100 years since the first voluntary sector infrastructure organisation for Manchester was founded and we will be hosting an event to help celebrate all the work that the voluntary sector has done in the city over the last century.
Do you want your news / event included in our newsletter? Let us know by emailing: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org

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