On 3 October 2019, we proudly hosted our 7th Spirit of Manchester Awards evening at The Sheridan Suite, Manchester. Take a look at all the winners inside!
The awards form part of our Spirit of Manchester programme run throughout the year to recognise and celebrate the hard work and dedication of thousands of voluntary, community and social enterprise groups and volunteers across the city of Manchester.

We can safely say that this year was the biggest yet with 340 guests in attendance. As with previous years we trended nationally on Twitter with some really lovely comments made by attendees during the evening. The whole event was webcast live on the evening with thanks to Visair Live Streaming Services – for those who may have missed it you can watch it here.

The evening started with an opening speech delivered by the Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Abid Chohan. Guests were then treated to a brilliant performance from the Fingers United Sign Language Performance Choir who performed two songs for us and really did get the party started.

Huge congratulations to all of the shortlisted nominees and winners on the evening.

**Volunteer of the Year**

**Winner: Sammy Minshull** [watch the film here]

Shortlisted:
- Elham Afzal [watch the film here]
- Kal Gill-Faci [watch the film here]
Volunteering Team Award
Winner: FareShare Greater Manchester Volunteers watch the film here
Shortlisted:
Coffee4craig watch the film here
Manchester Action on Street Health (MASH) watch the film here

Volunteer Involving Organisation Award (Supported by OMVCS Team, Manchester City Council)
Winner: The Tree of Life Centre Wythenshawe watch the film here
Shortlisted:
Boaz Trust watch the film here
Spoons Charity watch the film here

Trustee/Committee Member of the Year
Winner: Jeff Mills watch the film here
Shortlisted:
Andrew Foulkes watch the film here
Jo Calladine watch the film here

Employee Volunteering Award (Supported by One Manchester)
Winner: Bank of New York Melon

Service User Involving Organisation Award
Winner: Manchester Deaf Centre watch the film here
Shortlisted:
Community-Minded Ltd watch the film here
Migrant Support watch the film here
**Inspiring Campaign Award** (Supported by Manchester Local Care Organisation)

**Winner:** Invisible Manchester  [watch the film here]

**Shortlisted:**
- The Booth Centre  [watch the film here]
- Cracking Good Food  [watch the film here]

**Community Space Award**

**Winner:** The Edge Theatre and Arts Centre  [watch the film here]

**Community Cohesion Award** (Supported by Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust)

**Winner:** The Widows Empowerment Trust  [watch the film here]

**Partnership and Collaboration Award** (Supported by Young Manchester)

**Winner:** Manchester Carers Network  [watch the film here]

**Shortlisted:**
- ALL FM, LOL, Owl and Coconut, Levenshulme Youth Project  [watch the film here]
- Big Manchester  [watch the film here]

**Business Award** (Supported by North Manchester Business Network)

**Winner:** Good Mood Food  [watch the film here]

**Shortlisted:**
- Amity  [watch the film here]
- Mancmade  [watch the film here]
Equalities Award (Supported by the University of Manchester)
Winner: The Diversity Champions, The University of Manchester watch the film here
Shortlisted:
Chrisscy Jones watch the film here
Odd Arts watch the film here

Health and Wellbeing Award (Supported by Manchester Health and Care Commissioning)
Winner: Manchester Refugee Support Network watch the film here
Shortlisted:
Barlow Moor Community Association watch the film here
Cracking Good Food watch the film here

Special Achievement Award
Winner: Hannah Broughton

The Dr Sylvia Sham Award for Contribution to the Sector
Winner: Paul Martin, OBE LGBT Foundation watch the film here

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to each of our supporters. All monies raised from the evening will be distributed back into the community via our Spirit of Manchester grants programme over the next 12 months.

Nominations for Spirit of Manchester Awards 2020 will open in Spring!
Chief Executive’s update

Macc wins Manchester Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Contract

As you may be aware, earlier this year Manchester City Council and Manchester Health and Care Commissioning launched a competitive tendering process for the contract to provide support to the city's voluntary and community sector for the next three years. We are delighted to announce that Macc has been awarded this contract.

The new contract combines all the elements of support which Macc has been developing over the last decade: capacity building support for local voluntary and community groups, support for the engagement and influence of the local sector and the Volunteer Centre. These services are delivered under the banner of “Manchester Community Central” which is the platform established by Macc in 2009. For the first time, this is now combined with Macc's long-standing health and care work funded by the local NHS under a single contract.

Alongside these key areas, Macc will also be developing work around leadership, diversity (in particular support for BME organisations and leaders) and building relationships with local businesses. We will also be looking at how our membership scheme can change to help bring the sector together and build a network of mutual support.

All of these services and a host of additional resources such as a funding search facility, factsheets, training opportunities, jobs, news and our weekly ebulletin are available through www.manchestercommunitycentral.org or via 0333 321 3021.
Mike Wild, Chief Executive of Macc said:

“I’m so thrilled Macc has been awarded this contract – the third time we’ve done so! In the week when we’re celebrating the work of Manchester’s amazing charities, community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprises, this is a wonderful recognition of the role which Macc plays and will continue to play.

When we launched our Manchester Community Central service in 2009 I said that it was “version 1” and promised it would develop. We then made further changes at Macc over the years setting up the Volunteer Centre, regular State of the Sector reports, our Spirit of Manchester programme and developing grants opportunities for the sector. For me, having been successful in winning this new version of the contract is a massive endorsement of the work we’ve put in over the last ten years to build an organisation which supports, nurtures and celebrates our local voluntary and community sector and plays a major role in the life of Manchester.

There are challenges in this for us: like the rest of our sector, we have to do more and more with decreasing resources but I am also aware that this gives Macc some stability over the next three years. That’s very precious in the current climate and, just as I did in 2013, I promise we’ll put it to good use. For Macc, this contract is not an end in itself but a platform on which we can build. We recognise there is always more needed from us and we will continue to support, collaborate and influence where we can and, as I never tire of saying, help make more good things happen in Manchester.

All of us at Macc would like to applaud the City Council and Manchester Health and Care Commissioning - for maintaining investment in support for the voluntary and community sector with so many other pressures on public sector budgets. This acknowledges the role of Manchester’s three-and-a-half thousand strong voluntary community and social enterprise sector in the city and that a thriving sector is vital to Manchester’s future.”
Cllr Sue Murphy, Deputy Leader Manchester City Council said:

“The voluntary sector in Manchester contributes to this city massively. Having a diverse, thriving, resilient, effective and sustainable sector is a key priority within the Our Manchester Strategy that helps us to deliver the vision and desired outcomes for the city. This supports our vision to create a healthier Manchester, working with the voluntary sector to improve the health and wellbeing of our citizens. The role of the infrastructure service is an important enabler to achieving these ambitions, as it provides services, support and advice and promotes local charities, community groups and social enterprises that deliver social action.’

Ruth Bromley, Chair of Manchester Health and Care Commissioning, said:

“We are delighted Macc has been awarded this contract. The voluntary sector already plays a huge role in supporting local people to live healthy and happy lives. We look forward to working with Macc to build on this and ensure that local charities, community groups and social enterprises have the support they need to flourish and grow across the whole of Manchester”

If you have work that you think Macc could help you with, or if you have any questions about this contract, please contact us:
Website: www.manchestercommunitycentral.org
Email: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org
Tel: 0333 321 3021

Commissioners:
Programme Team, Manchester City Council
Email: omfunds@manchester.gov.uk
Tel: 0161 234 – 3316 / 4557
Tuesday 26 November, 1.30pm- 4.30pm
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre

This Voluntary Sector Assembly event will look at how the world of volunteer involvement looks now including issues such as peer support, diversity and advocacy. There will also be speakers from organisations who are doing great work in volunteering and a number of workshops including an open space where you can bring your issues and questions for discussion.

This event is aimed at anyone who manages or co-ordinates volunteers in Manchester, which could be part of your role or in a voluntary capacity. Join us for what should be a really interesting and rewarding afternoon!

Agenda
1.30-1.45pm Introduction Mike Wild, Macc Chief Executive
1.45-2.05pm Current volunteering outlook and issues
2.05-2.30pm Volunteering and diversity
2.30pm Break
2.45-3.30pm Workshops:
   1) Employer Supported Volunteering
   2) HOURManchester Tom Waring, Macc
   3) Open space session
3.30-4.00pm Values in volunteering
4.00-4.30pm What is your message to decision makers? Jack Puller, Macc

To book your place, please follow this link
We recently held our ‘Age Proud: Exploring Positive Ageing’ event on 2 October 2019. We had a fantastic day hearing from our network members and our fabulous speakers; Joyce Williams, who is an Age Proud blogger and campaigner, Paul McGarry, Head of the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub and Mike Dodd from the ‘Talking About My Generation’ campaign. We were also treated to a fantastic performance by the world champion whistler David Morris, who blew us all away with us his amazing renditions of Nessun Dorma, Shenandoah and much more!

The afternoon workshops explored how older people and ageing are currently portrayed in the media and thought of in society. Together, we thought about the types of stories about older people that should be promoted, in order to challenge some of the negative stereotypes about ageing. A report will be published later in the year detailing participant’s ideas about how to create a positive and modern narrative about ageing.

On Wednesday 20 November, 10.30am-2.30pm, the GMOPN and the Equalities Board will be holding ‘Experts by Experience’ training. The training is open to individuals over the age of 50 who wish to explore how to contribute their own personal experience and expertise in all different contexts in order to make sure that their voice is fully heard. We will explore how to share your story on your own terms in a way that feels comfortable. We will discuss the concept of being an ‘expert by experience’ and its importance in developing services and policy. We will also explore the differences between being an ‘expert by experience’ and a representative for older peoples voices more generally and how this might influence your approach. The training will be held at Macc, Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street, Manchester, M4 5JW.

If you would like to take part in this training, get involved with the GMOPN in any other way, or to find out more about what we do, please contact GMOPN@macc.org.uk or telephone 0161 834 9823.
The Skill Givers project aims to make the most out of volunteer time, offered by employer supported volunteering schemes, for everyone involved.

We do this by working with local voluntary and community groups, sports clubs, charities and social enterprises who support their community to get active, across Manchester and Salford, to identify where they could really make use of employee volunteer support.

The project has been up and running since earlier this year and some highlights so far include:

- We are just about to publish our first evaluation report for the project outlining what we have learnt up to July 2019. You will be able to view this on our website [here](#).
- We have a range of small and large employers signed up to the project. These include Salford Council, Horwich Cohen Coghlan Solicitors and Macc
- We have 91 volunteering opportunities up on the Skill Givers site from groups involved in the project. You can take a look at the support requested [here](#).
- We have had some successful volunteer placements take place!

"The process went as I expected although it was surprisingly easier than I had thought to use the Skill Givers system and arrange the volunteering day – I would certainly recommend it to others!"  
**Skill Givers group volunteer manager**

"I really felt like there was a lot I could bring to the organisation even in this short time. I only had a day of volunteer leave but I was surprised what a difference a day can make!"  
**Skill Givers employee volunteer**

You can find out more about their experiences on our [case studies page](#).

If you are an employer or group who would like to get involved in the project, you can find out more information here: [www.skillgivers.org.uk](http://www.skillgivers.org.uk) or follow us on twitter: @SkillGivers
Spirit of Manchester is over for another year! I enjoyed seeing the work and assets I created used in conjunction with it all. The brochure, certificates, banners, selfie frames, videos and awards presentation all turned out really well. All of the Spirit of Manchester Award nominee videos are now on YouTube, which you can see at Macc’s YouTube channel, Macc Manchester. As thanks for the Fingers United Performance Choir performing at the Spirit of Manchester, I’ve agreed to help them design a promotional banner for them to use in future shows.

Work continues, and is nearly complete, on helping to create images for a booklet/posters for the Chorlton and Whalley Range Dementia Action Group. I recently visited the group for the first time in person, and got some really positive and constructive feedback. I’m really happy with the direction and outcomes.

Looking to the future, there’s an interesting video production project in the works about active signposting. Similar to the videos I made for Didsbury Good Neighbours and Friends of Didsbury Park, there will be videos for three VCSE groups (Be Well, Self Help Services and Citizens Advice Manchester) that will showcase what they can do for patients, with the aim of reducing pressure on local GPs. There’s more info to come in the near future.

Tony Russ, Media Assistant Macc
The Volunteer Centre team is thrilled that Macc has won the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Infrastructure Service Contract by Manchester City Council. This means Volunteer Centre Manchester will continue its work supporting the brilliant VCSE organisations of Manchester to strengthen their work by involving volunteers and facilitating citizens of Manchester to find ways to support causes and groups that matter to them.

With this news comes the anticipation of development and growth at the Volunteer Centre along with a renewed determination to surmount the various barriers that stand in the way of a more vibrant and diverse volunteering culture in Manchester.

As part of this new contract, we have the chance to expand the accessibility of our service, both technologically and physically. Our system needs development and we are going to work with our VCSE colleagues to develop this so that works for them. We know from working with Volunteer Coordinators, both paid and voluntary, what a demanding role it is, so a system that makes connecting with volunteers as easy as possible is top priority. We also want to make sure that as many Manchester residents can access volunteering as possible, and can enjoy the benefits of participating in their communities.

To make the latter a reality we will be focusing on equality and diversity in volunteering. We know that many Manchester residents face barriers to fully participate in the life of the city and volunteering is not exempt from that. We want to be a volunteer centre that actively works to create a level playing field for all potential volunteers regardless of background and life experience. This means identifying who is currently excluded and working with partners across the city to not only improve the way we work, but to also challenge volunteer involving organisations to make the changes needed to enable Manchester to develop a more representative volunteer population in our VCSE sector.

We are so excited to start this journey and look forward to working with our VCSE colleagues and citizens of Manchester to create a service that capitalises on the enthusiasm, talent and experience of the people of Manchester to further strengthen the caring compassionate city we know and love.
Trustees are the driving force behind many local charities across the city of Manchester, using their skills and qualities to lead great work that changes lives, improves neighbourhoods and contributes positively to the place that we all live and work.

Finding the right trustee opportunity can be a challenge – how do you know whether the organisation is the right one for you? What skills are needed? What questions should you be asking? What is the commitment?

Similarly organisations looking for new trustees should be looking at whether their current board – has the right skills, experience and knowledge? Is it diverse and representative? Works together as a team to drive your organisation forward?

In order to support organisations and volunteers interested in trusteeship we decided to run Get On Board – Trustee Recruitment event in September.

Get On Board is a slightly different approach to trustee recruitment and described by attendees as speed dating for trusteeship.

Get On Board helps ‘start the conversation’ between those looking to become trustees with organisations looking to recruit new trustees to their board. Acting as an informal networking opportunity the event enabled participants to explore possible connections, ask those questions that anyone considering joining a trustee board will be thinking about and exchange contact details where appropriate.

With no expectation or pressure to immediately join a trustee board the event was the starting point on the journey to being a trustee and opened up communication channels. Our message was clear that becoming a trustee takes time, commitment and careful consideration so is not something that should be rushed.
The event was a great success with 32 potential trustees spending time with each of the 11 organisations represented. Guest speaker Eleanor Riley from Made With Hope gave a great speech about her journey to finding the right trustees and the benefits of having the right people on your board, which was inspiring to hear. For the rest of the evening attendees were given the time to move around the room and start those conversations. Members of the Macc staff team were on hand to help facilitate the event and answer questions around trusteeship.

We received some great feedback after the event:

“Thanks for arranging the trustee event a few weeks ago, I really enjoyed it! I'm very early on my journey of becoming a trustee and left the event feeling motivated and confident to learn more. Would recommend to other organisations looking to recruit trustees.” Potential Trustee

“Great venue, great group of companies, and the atmosphere was very open and inclusive.” Potential Trustee

“Would recommend to other organisations looking to recruit trustees.” North Manchester FM

In follow up after the event, we are aware that a number of attendees have arranged for their conversations to continue which is great news.

We will be looking to host another Get On Board event in early 2020 details will be posted on our website. In the meantime, if you are looking at trustee recruitment for your board or looking at what it means to be a trustee we have a number of factsheets and resources available here

We will also be delivering our Trustee Roles and Responsibilities training on Tuesday 26 November 2019, 5.30pm-8.30pm. Ideal for anyone thinking about trusteeship or for those who currently sit on a board as the workshop will look at the key roles and responsibilities of being a trustee. Further information about the workshop along with the booking link can be found here: https://bit.ly/2J9aXFZ
Over the next two months, we have new workshops coming up around Staying Successful and Campaigning that will complement our standard programme of workshops. Further information and registration for all of the workshops can be found using the links provided.

**Committee and Meeting Skills**
This workshop is specifically for those who are new members to a committee or for those who would like to brush up on their skills at meetings. Covering controlling behaviours at meeting, roles of members, minute taking and setting of agendas.

*14 November, 10am-1pm*

**Choosing Your Structure**
Unsure whether the structure you are considering is right for your organisation? This workshop offers the opportunity to check that the structure you are considering or have is correct for the type of organisation you want to be.

*15 November, 10am-1pm*
**Booking:** [https://bit.ly/31sSBwU](https://bit.ly/31sSBwU)

**New workshop – Stay Successful**
Do you want to be attractive to funders? Do you want to be in the running for taking on that community building? Are you actively protecting your beneficiaries and yourselves from risk? A new workshop to ensure you have everything in order.

*20 November, 10am-3pm*
**Booking:** [https://bit.ly/2JamCLw](https://bit.ly/2JamCLw)

**New workshop – Campaigns Training**
A new workshop to explore how to plan and deliver a successful campaign for change which is objective focused. Designed for people wanting to start to campaign for change or for those who may have struggled to campaign in the past.

*21 November, 10am-2.30pm*
Funding Your Project
A workshop specifically for VCSE organisations in the city of Manchester who are looking for funding. Covering searching for funds (funding portal), applying and diversifying funding to your project. Aimed at organisations who are new to funding.
22 November, 1pm-4pm

Trustee Roles and Responsibilities
This workshop introduces the key roles and responsibilities of trustees identifying what you need to and what you should know. We encourage both trustees and senior members of staff to attend to ensure understanding in the role of trustee.
26 November, 5.30pm-8.30pm

Bid Writing
Bid Writing is an essential skill when it comes to securing funding for your organisation. This new introductory level workshop is ideal for any staff or volunteers who are responsible for writing funding applications.
28 November, 10am-1pm

Basic Bookkeeping
Introductory level workshop aimed at anyone who is new to bookkeeping. Learn how to record income and expenditure for your community organisation and how to produce monthly / yearly accounts for your trustee board.
4 December, 10am-1pm
Booking: https://bit.ly/2W0NDqf

Business Planning
A workshop covering what is a business plan and what is its purpose? Why do you need a business plan? Main steps to writing a business plan. Walkthrough a guidance template for your own planning to take back to your organisation.
5 December, 10am-1pm

5 Key ideas in Health and Social Care you need to know to write funding applications
This workshop will explore the ideas that commissioners and grant makers are looking for in funding health and social care services and may well improve your chances of being funded.
11 December, 10am-4pm
Booking: https://bit.ly/2W0Y8tx
Manchester’s groups

Manchester Refugee Support Network

This year, we started a new project, Shared Routes. The project is funded for four years by the National Lottery Community Fund. Our goal is to engage more people from refugee or migrant backgrounds in volunteering. Our services consist of two parts. First, we deliver a short training programme to provide people with skills that help them to volunteer. Second, we support peer navigators into volunteer placements.

Our project is people centred. We train people in topics they are interested in.

We distributed questionnaires asking people what kind of training they need and many people voted for project management. That is when we approached Macc to ask if they would like to volunteer to design and deliver an introductory training in project management for our peer navigators.

We were really happy that Macc agreed and how much they cared to tailor their support to our project needs. They met with us asking about what exactly our trainees would like to learn and then tailored the workshop to the peer navigators’ needs and interests. People also had the chance to sign up for a free follow up course in project management. What an amazing chance so many people are looking for!

Macc very much helped us to put together an interesting training schedule in community work. Training in project management is in high demand and people had the chance to attend not only one but two workshops for free. Our trainees were delighted to get this kind of opportunity because it is really not easy to find volunteer trainers. Most people have a too busy schedule.

"The project management session was very helpful and full of educational knowledge. The teacher was remarkable and professional. Thanks a lot."
BLOSSOM! is dedicated to shaping the next generation of women leaders through empowerment seminars, workshops, one-to-one mentoring programmes and life skills programmes. It supports teenage girls and young adults of African heritage aged 10-20, educating them on issues that affect their well-being, inspiring them to reach their full potential as young girls and empowering them through the transitional stages to becoming a woman.

BLOSSOM! had been seeking Awards for All funding for its next phase of activity. It had received a rejection letter with some explanation of why the bid had been unsuccessful. BLOSSOM! Opportunity Manager Ruth Ogunji asked Macc for help in interpreting the letter and responding to the issues raised.

For Macc, Rick Gwilt provided guidance by:
- Analysing the rejection letter and identifying three issues to be addressed (the problem seemed to be one of presentation rather than substance)
- Suggesting how those three issues might be addressed in a revised bid
- Suggesting a structure for the revised proposal

The main learning points were:
- Clearly identify which of the funder’s priorities you are addressing. In this case it was to “enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage”
- Clearly identify the community need you have identified
- Clearly identify the outcomes for your beneficiaries. In this case, it was important to see the ultimate beneficiaries as the young women that these girls would become
- Make your case in a logical order. It makes it easier to understand
- Be concise. Use fewer words, more white space. Let your ideas stand out. You’re trying to land punches, not strangle the reader

BLOSSOM! revised its bid and resubmitted it immediately. Within less than a month it was notified that it had been awarded the £10,000 requested.

“Rick Gwilt was friendly, professional and guided me through the process. He analysed the letter I had received and asked me a series of questions before providing me with guidelines that I used to re-write my proposal. He checked my write up to see if I had followed the guideline. I am thankful that Rick was able to support me swiftly and look forward to planning for our 2020 project. Thank you Macc, Thank you Awards for All.”

Ruth Ogunji
P&I shorts
The Policy and Influence (P&I) team has launched P&I Shorts, a weekly ebulletin full of news and information about policy issues and opportunities for local organisations to get involved in decision making in the city. We share information about meetings Macc is attending as a sector representative, as well as P&I-related events, reports and consultations. This complements our blogs and opinion pieces, and our team quarterly newsletter which gives more in-depth and background information about our work. You can sign up here and if you have P&I news you’d like us to share on your behalf, do get in touch.

Voluntary Sector Assembly
The P&I team coordinates Macc’s Voluntary Sector Assembly (VSA.) Our ‘Working with Young People’ VSA took place on 18 September. Organised in partnership with Manchester Mind, it looked at the current picture of youth services locally and nationally, and contained great examples of how the voluntary sector are working with young people. The next VSA in November will focus on volunteer involvement. Book your places for this free event here.

Great Manchester Social Value Network
Macc is a member of the Greater Manchester Social Value Network which aims to influence stakeholders, policy and strategy at the Greater Manchester level around social value. Its recent conference was held at the Co-op Building in Manchester city centre. Over 120 people attended from businesses, VCSE organisations and statutory sector. The event included a presentation from the chief exec of Co-op and workshops on how to further the work of the network. Read Nigel’s latest blog on social value here.

Employment and Skills
P&I team members have been taking part in several pieces of work around employment and skills in the city, both in the VCSE sector, and more widely. Following consultation last year around developing a Good Employers Charter, Greater Manchester Combined Authority is holding a series of meetings to look at the findings in detail, and Macc is participating as a sector rep. We took part in the work to develop the GM Industrial Strategy, which particularly looks at skills gaps in the region and action that can be taken to address these. Macc is also working with other VCSE support organisations through 10GM to coordinate research into skills and employment in the VCSE with a view to developing a sector workforce strategy. For more information email: karen@macc.org.uk
Health and wellbeing leaders
During the last quarter we have convened the first two meetings of the new Health and Wellbeing Leaders Group. This is a group of senior leaders from the sector who will work together to take forward the Memorandum of Understanding that has been agreed with the Local Care Organisation, and ensure effective representation for the sector. We have also been working in partnership with Manchester Foundation Trust. A Citywide Community Explorers meeting (see below) found that VCSE organisations were finding it difficult to find and talk to hospital decision makers about improvements that could be made to care and working relationships. We have helped establish a group of health sector workers and VCSE reps who will work in partnership to address these issues, and look at developing a Memorandum of Understanding for this work. For more information email: danielle@macc.org.uk

Community Explorers
Community Explorers meetings are facilitated by Macc, in partnership with Manchester Health and Care Commissioning. We aim to bring together people with an interest in health and care services to discuss the work that is going on across the city of Manchester. They are opportunities to meet people you may not necessarily come across in your day-to-day role and to build relationships that cross sector boundaries.

The next meetings are:
- **Central Manchester Community Explorers** Tuesday 19 November, 10am-12pm, Venue to be confirmed
- **South Manchester Community Explorers** Wednesday 20 November, 2pm-4pm, Didsbury Parsonage Trust, The Old Parsonage, Stenner Lane, Didsbury, M20 2RQ
- **North Manchester Community Explorers** Thursday 21 November, 2pm-4pm, Heathfield Resource Centre, Heathfield Street, Newton Heath, M40 1LF

Email: danielle@macc.org.uk for further information or if you’d like a place on the agenda to talk about your organisation’s work.

Spirit Stories
Macc’s 2019 Spirit of Manchester awards ceremony took place on 3 October. During the week before, the P&I team coordinated a week of Spirit Stories, celebrating the extraordinary everyday work of the Manchester voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. For the first time this year, stories were themed, and we gathered 14 stories from across the city over five days to demonstrate how the VCSE sector is working to address the recently declared Manchester climate emergency. All these stories can be viewed on the website here
Chorlton and Whalley Range Dementia Action Group
Following two workshops with about 80 local people and workers, the group is producing a booklet of 10 big ideas for making Chorlton and Whalley Range a better place for people living with dementia. Pictures and text will also be used for a set of posters.

Big Alcohol Conversation
Earlier this year, we took part in the Big Alcohol Conversation, hosting focus groups to find out more about what people thought about issues around alcohol in the city, such as whether there should be minimum pricing for alcohol, how alcohol impacts – positively and negatively – on a successful night-time economy in the city, and how alcohol affects people’s health. For feedback about the findings of the research, and to learn more about how it will be developed into an alcohol strategy for Greater Manchester, come to a Big Alcohol Conversation next steps session at Macc on 14 November. You can find more information and book your place here.

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